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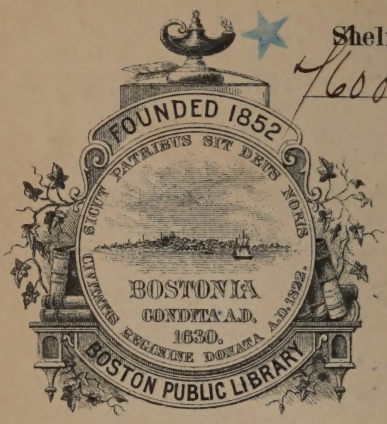

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PROGRESS

OF

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

IN

NEW ENGLAND.

BEING A COLLECTION OF EXPERIMENTS, REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES, FROM THE MOST RESPECTABLE SOURCES.

PRECEDED BY A DISSERTATION ON

THE PROOFS OF ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

By CHARLES POYEN, St. Sauveur.

"Fascinatio est actus imaginationis intensivus in corpus alterius." [Fascination (now called Animal Magnetism) is the intense action of the mind, (imaginationis) of one person on the body of another.]—Bacon, de Augment Scient., Lib. 4. Cap. 3.

"Many things secret are true; sympathies and antipathies are safely authentic unto us, who, ignorant of their cause, may yet acknowledge their effects."
Brown.

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DEDICATION.

TO ALEXANDER WRIGHT, ESQ. OF LOWELL.

Dear Sir,—You are neither a King nor a Pope, neither a *Right Honorable* nor an Excellency, neither a far-famed General, nor a shrewd and influential Statesman, neither a wealthy merchant nor a learned and dignified President of some of our Universities. It is, therefore, neither in consideration of your titles and dignities, nor of your wealth and political influence, that I inscribe to you this small volume. It is true that you had the honor of first introducing the manufacturing of carpets into New-England; it is true that you are now at the head of an extensive establishment, and that the products of the works you superintend are the object of universal admiration throughout the United States. But still, usefulness in the mechanical arts does not yet afford much glory in this age of refinement and narrow gentility; and your influence abroad is not so great, that I should be induced by it to solicit your patronage, in dedicating to you a book on the unpopular subject of Animal Magnetism. My motives in doing it, are not, then, worldly ones; they do not proceed from outward considerations; they are inward; they lay at the bottom of my heart. I wish, Sir, to give you a public token of the profound esteem which I entertain for your virtues and high mental qualities. I must confess, at the risk of offending your modesty, that I have met with very few who unite, in so great a measure as you do, an earnest love for science, firmness of character, independence and liberality of mind, the philosophic spirit and soundness of judgment, to so much benevolence, tenderness of feeling, and ease of manners. I have observed in you, that just degree of enthusiasm that stirs up a man's intellect and sympathies towards the correct apprehension of the beautiful and the accomplishment of noble deeds, without leading him into serious errors. What is called prejudice, seems never to have entered into your mind, and pride of any sort is a thing wholly foreign to your nature. Whoever is acquainted with humanity, will acknowledge that so many fine gifts are seldom met with in the same individual, and surely those who possess them must be of a privileged mental organization. It is my delight, my happiness,

Sir, to have intercourse with such beings; and it is also my supreme delight to show them as publicly as possible my respect and attachment. I am of opinion that intrinsic virtue and merit should be rewarded here below, for the encouragement of all towards doing good. In antiquity, virtue was sometimes crowned in the midst of public assemblies. In France it receives a prize from the Royal Institute! But, after all, what is a sweeter and richer reward for a noble heart than the respect and approbation of all those who are capable of appreciating the worth of moral beauty?

I had the pleasure of seeing you often, of observing you in a variety of circumstances, and I believe that I have arrived at a full and correct apprehension of your character.

With respect to the subject of Animal Magnetism, I must also confess that I have not yet met any one who has adopted a better course than you have done, to acquire a thorough knowledge of it. You have proved your energy of mind and philosophic spirit, in the trouble you have taken, not only to investigate the matter, but also to become perfectly acquainted with me, and with the estimable person upon whom we have both of us made so many interesting experiments. You have been amply compensated, I hope, by the conviction that you have gained of the entire truth of an order of phenomena so important to science and so glorious to human nature! You have, besides, demonstrated that the narrow scruples of those who shrink from avowing their belief and publishing their experiments, for fear of unpopularity, are as visionary as they are ridiculous; for you do not stand, by any means, less high in the public estimation and in the attachment of your friends, now that you are a supporter of Animal Magnetism, than ever before.

Receive, my dear Sir, the assurance of my sincere esteem and friendship.

CHARLES POYEN.

Salem, Mass. October 12th, 1837.

PREFACE.

In the present state of Animal Magnetism in this country, a collection of well authenticated facts, coming from numerous and respectable sources, seems to me imperatively demanded; both to instruct those who are not yet informed of the phenomena, and establish the truth of the science in the mind of the public generally. Such are the character and purpose of the following series of narratives; I doubt not that they will meet the wants and expectations of all, except those whose judgment is totally warped by prejudice, or subverted by intentional stubborness and self-conceit.

But, before he commences the perusal of these narratives, I would beg the reader to stop awhile, and lend me a kind hearing; I would beg him to let me directly address his reason and conscience, by a few sober considerations, intended to demonstrate to his *moral sense*, to *his mind's eye* that Animal Magnetism is not, what he, perhaps, thought it to be, a delusion. These considerations will be drawn, 1st, from human testimony. 2d, from

the manner in which the writer became acquainted with the subject, from the tendencies of his mind and his occupations before he commenced lecturing upon it; and, lastly, from the course he has pursued to establish the science in this country.

I do not flatter myself that I shall convince many by these preliminary remarks; but still I may be fortunate enough to succeed in turning the hard skepticism of some into a state of *philosophic doubt*, that opens the way to conviction. I may happen to meet a few who will be touched by my arguments, and thus feel better prepared to understand and believe the phenomena which are to be subsequently exposed. It is not, indeed, through the external sense only, that the reality of animal magnetism, in this advanced period of its historical existence, can be ascertained; man has within himself, higher and as efficient means to arrive at the knowledge of truth, viz. cool reasoning, and a due sense of respect for the testimony of mankind. I have no regard for those who despise or neglect the exercise of such means of conviction; they show themselves unworthy of the rank of moral and intellectual beings. I care not for their opinion—let them think and say what they please.

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PART I.

PROOFS OF ANIMAL MAGNETISM DERIVED FROM HUMAN TESTIMONY.

SECTION I.

After a mature inquiry into the cause of the incredulity which so generally prevails in regard to Animal Magnetism, we find it to be no other one than the "*novelty of this science.*" People say, that it is too wonderful, too surprising, too inexplicable, &c., to be believed in! But is there not an almost infinite number of other natural operations, as surprising and incomprehensible, which, however, appear quite plain, and the existence of which is universally considered as indisputable? Why are these operations unanimously admitted? why do they not excite, in the least, our wonder and incredulity? Simply, because they are not novel things; they are daily observed, and people have been habituated to their effects from early age. We are right, therefore, in advancing that Animal Magnetism seems so wonderful, and is so generally disbelieved, only because it is new. Man, indeed, is a creature of habit; he thinks, he views himself and the phenomena of the outward world; he feels and acts according to the impressions that have been made upon his moral and intellectual organization, through early education, social influences, individual practices, &c.

Thence we may say that man's mind is chiefly, and perhaps wholly, framed from habit; or, in other words, that man's habits are man's nature. Every thing, therefore, that tends to alter the former, being a direct attack against the latter, must be, of course, looked upon with a suspicious eye, and at once opposed and rejected with contempt, as a visionary scheme, or an imposition! Such has been the character exhibited by mankind from the earliest period down to the present day, and such will it ever remain, until man is taught, from the cradle, almost, that his nature is not fixed within certain unchangeable, intellectual and practical limits, but, on the contrary, essentially *progressive;* that is to say, made so that he can penetrate but gradually only, into the knowledge of himself and of the surrounding world. As long as this important philosophical truth shall not become a fundamental element of the education of youth, man will show himself pitifully blind in regard to those very improvements which necessarily follow from the development of his organization, and always at war against every discovery, however beneficial it is destined to be.

The correctness of the foregoing reflections appears to me strikingly exemplified by the ridicule and cruel persecutions that almost every great truth had to contend against when it was at first revealed to the world. We may judge of the manner in which those truths were received, by the ignominious treatment exercised against their sublime discoverers. Socrates, who the first proclaimed the unity of God, and the immateriality of the soul, among the heathen, was condemned for his impiety, and suffered death by poison, as a murderer and a traitor. Christ himself, was subjected to the punishment inflicted upon rebels, impostors, and robbers; and his doctrine, although gaining ground

more and more rapidly, did not cease to be ridiculed during nearly four centuries. Christopher Columbus, when he set out on his voyage for the discovery of a new world, was treated by all Europe as a madman. Galileo was termed an infidel, and shut up in prison. Descartes, whose genius created the true philosophical method, and opened the field of scientific investigation, was called a lunatic, persecuted, and obliged to flee from his country. The inventors of the art of printing were denounced as infamous sorcerers. Even, when but a few years ago, Fulton applied the power of steam to navigation, and Evans exhibited his plan for the construction of rail-roads, were they not looked upon as insane, and their scheme considered absurd?

The history of medicine will show us still more forcibly the same precipitation and blindness of judgment concerning newly-discovered facts. Thus the circulation of the blood was decreed impossible by the most scientific bodies, and the partizans of that doctrine were pursued with ridicule for nearly half a century;—vaccination was considered and proscribed as a crime; the Peruvian bark rejected for years, as a useless, and even hurtful substance; all the preparations of antimony proscribed under the "*decanat of Guy Patin;*" the use of emetic forbidden by a decree of the parliament of Paris, solicited by the academy of medicine itself. In short, the discovery of almost all important truths has had to encounter the greatest difficulties, at whatever time, and among whatever nation it was made. And why? because the facts, or doctrines announced, had not yet been considered by the human mind; they were something different from the reigning ideas and practices; they attacked and tended to alter the moral and intellectual constitution of mankind. But, invari-

ably, after these truths had been for some time debated before the world, studied and investigated by all classes of society, they were no longer regarded as contrary to the laws of nature, impossible or absurd; they were recognized for what they were, and insensibly appeared quite plain and "*natural.*" Why? Because the human mind had become accustomed to their influence and peculiar character!

After reflecting on the picture that I have just drawn of the lamentable inconsistency, blindness and injustice of mankind, concerning those very things which have proved afterwards to be real and important improvements, who will dare to treat any newly-announced fact as a falsehood, or ridicule and condemn it at once, as an imposition?

I do not pretend, however, that every discovery should be received with an entire faith, and immediately ranked within the domain of science, without examination of its solidity and value. Far from it; such a course would be still more foolish and blamable than the other. The true philosopher will adopt neither; he will, at first, neither believe nor disbelieve, approve nor condemn; but he will keep himself in a state of philosophical doubt, that may lead him to use all the means in his possession to arrive at a correct apprehension of the debated subject, and ascertain whether the pretended facts are real or not. This is the course pursued by a truly wise and scientific man. He will not, like the blind multitude, scorn and reject a new thing, merely because it appears wonderful and impossible. Indeed, as he has already reflected on the mechanism of his own organization, and on the phenomena of the external world, he is aware that there is an almost infinite number of wonderful things,

equally inexplicable to him, the existence of which cannot be doubted, and has ever been universally acknowledged. He knows, besides, that He alone who has made every thing, and comprehends all that is possible, is competent to pronounce one thing to be impossible! He knows, from the history of his own species, that the circle of "*possibility*" has always been enlarging, according to the moral and physical development of mankind. Neither will a true philosopher condemn or ridicule a new discovery, because the alleged facts seem contrary to "*the laws of nature;*" for he knows, in the first place, that a *law* has no real existence by itself; that it is nothing but a conception of the human mind, an inference from the observation of certain analogous facts; finally, a mere abstraction; that consequently the discovery of new facts renders necessary either a total suppression of the law, or at least, an alteration in the manner in which it is expressed. This is sufficiently demonstrated by the history of the progress of physical sciences. In the next place, a true philosopher is wise and enlightened enough to believe that his understanding does not yet embrace all that is in nature; he is aware of the exceedingly small compass of his intellect, in comparison with the infinite variety, multiplicity, and complication of natural phenomena; he knows, finally, that what is natural or unnatural for one generation, will not be so for the following, on account of the progressive changes that man is allowed to make, day by day, in the knowledge of himself and of the external world.

From the foregoing general considerations the reader will infer that the opposition hitherto made against Animal Magnetism, is not a sufficient reason for rejecting it as untrue, and condemning it as an imposition; he will infer, that, like many other important

facts, it may have been unfairly examined, and also judged with an unjust precipitation by the multitude.

But, if we are not sufficiently authorised to deny the reality of a newly-announced fact, on the ground that it is too wonderful, and seems contrary to all existing natural laws, through what means shall we enable ourselves to decide upon its truth or falsehood? I am going presently to answer this question.

When some new facts of a strange character are presented to us, it is supremely unphilosophical to undertake to oppose them by mere reasoning. Arguments in such a case are of no avail. We ought, at first, to strip our mind of all preconceived notions, and ask for a demonstration of the reality of the alleged phenomena. This demonstration can be obtained in two ways. 1st. If the pretended discovery has been for some time before the world, there must be some precedents either for, or against it; its claims must have been examined, and proper experiments made by competent individuals, for the purpose of ascertaining their solidity. In this case, we may refer to the testimony of those competent judges, even before making an application of our own senses. We should, indeed, bear in mind that the testimony of a sufficient number of intelligent, moral and disinterested persons, on a matter of observation, deserves as much confidence as the testimony of our own eyes,—as it must be founded on a careful examination of facts. This has always been admitted among men as one of the most rational and solid bases of certainty.

2dly. But if the discovery be quite new, if there are no precedents, no previous experience concerning it, to which we might refer, we ought then to look for an immediate ocular demonstration, and make proper experiments ourselves. In proceeding in that way,

we cannot fail to obtain positive results, either in favor of, or against the alleged facts.

Now, Animal Magnetism, the subject of our present consideration, has been before the world upwards of half a century; it has been debated, examined and written upon, by a crowd of individuals. Let us, therefore, inquire what has been said about it; let us resort to human testimony, viz. to the opinion of those who rendered themselves competent to decide upon it by observation, experiments and study. We need not enter into minute historical details; it will be sufficient for our purpose, to quote the names of the distinguished and well-known scientific men of Europe, who have more or less occupied themselves with Animal Magnetism, and testified in favor of its existence. We shall also mention the governments whose attention has been called to the subject, and that have sanctioned and regulated the magnetic practice by especial measures.

Among the supporters of Animal Magnetism, we find the celebrated Baron Cuvier, who expressed his belief in its reality in his "Leçons d'Anatomie Comparée, vol. 2, p. 117." The marquis Laplace in his "Traité Analytique du Calcul des Probabilités;" Gall, in his "Anatomie du Systême Nerveux, vol. 1. p.146—48," acknowledges it as a truth. J. Hahneman, in his "*Organon of the Healing Art*," declares that they are but fools or madmen who deny it. The marquis of Puysegeir, the Comte Tardy de Montravel, Mr. de Lutzelbourg and de Lauzanne, men of the very first rank and education in France, devoted the greatest part of their life to the disinterested practice of magnetism, and wrote several excellent works on it. Mr. Deleuze, the librarian of the museum of natural history of Paris, and a member of several scientific bodies

says that he exercised it upwards of thirty-five years, and his works, (Histoire Critique du Magnetisme Animal,—Instruction Pratique,) are considered the best on this subject. Doctor Bertrand, one of the most distinguished pupils of the Polytechnical school, also practised it with success, and left on it two large volumes in 8vo. full of a profound philosophy, and of a multitude of curious observations. Charles de Villers, the well-known author of a history of the reformation, was a partisan of magnetism, and offered an ingenious theory of its phenomena, in his "Magnetiseur Amoureur." Prof. Rostan, one of the most eminent living French physicians and physiologists, wrote a long and well-digested memoir on it, in the eighth vol. of the "Dictionnaire de Medecine." Dr. Georget also devoted to it a remarkable chapter in his "*Physiology of the Nervous System*," in 2 vols. 8vo. Prof. Andral delivered two lectures on this subject, comprised in his *course of internal pathology*. In these lectures he does not admit all the claims of magnetism, but professes his belief in the influence of the will of one person over another, and in the state of somnambulism. Prof. Broussais tried it with success at the hospital of Val de Grace, and acknowledged his entire assent to its reality. Drs. Foissac, Dupotet, Fillassier, Bailly, Gaymard, a distinguished naturalist attached to the royal navy, admiral Freycinet, and others, are known by their profound and careful researches and writings on this science. Baron Massias admitting it to be true, has given to it a due place in his works on mental philosophy.

Besides the distinguished individuals whose names I have just mentioned, the one hundred and eighty-eight members, who, from 1786 to 1790 composed the magnetic society of Strasbourg, might be added here: the

memoirs of that society have been published, and are considered a valuable and highly trustworthy collection of facts. The society of Paris have also published, from 1814 to 1820, two periodicals, (the Library of Animal Magnetism, and the Annals of Animal Magnetism,) made up entirely of narratives of facts, reviews of works and memoirs on every branch of the science, by a crowd of intelligent and respectable men of the scientific and literary profession.* Finally, I will refer to the work in two large 8vo. vols., containing a faithful account of all the cures performed through magnetism in France, and signed by upwards of three hundred persons, most of whom were physicians.

In Prussia, the illustrious Hufeland, after declaring himself against magnetism, has bowed to evidence, and employs it in his practice. An hospital of one hundred beds, under the care of Prof. Wolfard, has been established at Berlin, in which patients are successfully treated by that method. The Academy of Sciences of the same city, one of the most distinguished learned bodies of Europe, proposed, in 1818, a prize of thirty-three hundred francs, for the best memoir on Animal Magnetism. In the same country, (Prussia,) a royal ordinance, issued on February 7, 1817, allows regular physicians only to exercise magnetism, and enjoins on those who carry on that practice to give an account, every three months, of the results obtained. A chair now occupied by Dr. Kludge, the author of a classical work on the subject, has been created in the medical faculty of Berlin for the professorship of Animal Magnetism.

*Library of Animal Magnetism, 8 vol. in 8vo. Annals of Animal Magnetism, 16 vol. ditto.

In 1815, the emperor of Russia appointed a committee for the purpose of making an examination of Animal Magnetism. This committee, having declared, from their experiments, that magnetism is a very important agent which should be trusted to the hands of well-informed physicians only, it was ordered that those physicians who would occupy themselves with the magnetic practice, should give an account every three months of their operations, and that the committee itself should, every three months, present a report to the emperor. A decree of the medical college of Denmark of December 21, 1815, and another subsequent ordinance of January 14, 1817, impose upon physicians the same duties, and prescribe to the local authorities to take care that magnetism be not practised by any other sort of people. In various other parts of Germany, Hermstaedt, Klaproth, Shiglits, Meckel Malfatti of Vienna, Hayner, Korreff, &c. have investigated the claims of Animal Magnetism and testified to the truth of it. At Frankfort, Dr. Passavant has published a very remarkable work, in which he exposes not facts only, but also the moral and psychological consequences arising from them. At Groningue, Dr. Backer, translated into the Dutch language the "*Critical History*" of magnetism, by Mr. Deleuze, and added to it a volume of observations, made by himself and some of his fellow physicians. At Stockholm, public theses on magnetism are sustained for the grade of Doctor. At St. Petersburg, Dr. Stroffreghen, the first physician of the emperor of Russia, and several others have pronounced their opinion in favor of this science. Near Moscow, the earl Panen, formerly a minister of Russia, has established on his estate, a magnetical hospital, under the care of a skilful physi-

cian, in which a good number of important cures have been performed. Among other respectable German writers who have devoted particular attention to this subject, and written "*Ex professo*" on it, I will name Wienholdt, Eschenmaher, Ennemayer, Kieser, Nees-von-Esenbeck, whose works, according to Mr. Deleuze's opinion, are an inexhaustible mine of valuable information, (Practical Instructions, ch. X. translated into English by Thomas Hartshorn.)

After soberly considering the above imposing mass of highly respectable testimonies, who can reasonably doubt the existence of Animal Magnetism? To deny it, as observed Dr. Marc, before the Academy of Medicine of Paris, on the 24th of January, 1825,—"to deny it, would be to suppose that men of the greatest merit, two learned bodies of the first respectability, and governments known for having surrounded themselves with the best physicians, must have, in various places and at various periods of time, fallen the dupes of miserable jugglers, and propagated, favored and executed labors merely chimerical." I will add still farther, that to deny the reality of magnetism, would be to suppose that so many distinguished men, whose belief had resulted from the careful and repeated application of their senses, had connived together to palm upon society, a most ab and wicked imposition!

I am going now to demonstrate that the testimonies above quoted can be fully relied upon—considering, 1st, the agreement that exists between them. 2dly, the number and character of the witnesses.

We should not, in the first place, forget that Animal Magnetism is not a matter of mere opinion, but a "*matter of fact*," the reality of which can be ascertained by actual observation. This point being well established, we find, 1st, that all the witnesses

whose names are mentioned in the preceding pages, have testified to the same thing, viz. that Animal Magnetism is a reality. Their testimony, therefore, is identical, and as such its value cannot be disputed.

2dly, That the number of those witnesses amounts to upwards of one hundred, which would be more than necessary to settle a question of fact in any court of justice in the world.

3dly, That those witnesses were, or still are, intelligent moral men, wholly disinterested in the matter to be decided upon. Indeed, they were all of them physicians, naturalists, or philosophers; three classes of individuals, better qualified than any other, from their natural endowments and professional avocations, to investigate and study the phenomena of nature. Most of them had, themselves, produced the effects called Animal Magnetism; and those who had not practised the operations, must have seen them performed often, and to their full satisfaction, before venturing publicly to acknowledge their belief in the truth of a thing so generally ridiculed and opposed. In point of intellect and morality, those men are inferior to none; their works, the celebrity of their names, the respect they obtain from mankind, are sufficient guarantees of their high scientific attainments, philosophical spirit and social virtues. They were, or still are, disinterested in the matter; for, as they occupied a commanding station in society, and were already well known by their previous labors on other branches of science, they had nothing to gain, either in glory or fortune, by giving their support to Animal Magnetism; on the contrary, they exposed themselves to sarcasm and unpopularity; nay, some of them, as Dr. Husson, lost much of their practice by doing it. Deleuze, Rostan, Georget, &c. never magnetised for money. The

three brothers de Puysegur, Tardy de Montravel, de Lutzelbourg, de Lauzanne, &c. belonged to the very first nobility, owned large estates, and lavished their fortune, time and health in practising magnetism, publishing extensive works upon it, and giving pecuniary aids to the poor people, who trusted themselves to their care. (See Puysegur's memoirs, Mr. Cloquet's letter on Puysegur's practice on his estate of Buzancy; on the principles and practice of magnetism by de Lauzanne; de Lutzelbourg's Memoirs, &c.)

Now, I candidly ask whether the testimony of such men does not deserve our confidence and respect? whether it is not equivalent to the application of our own senses? whether it is not the strongest fact that can be advanced in support of Animal Magnetism? Let the reader ponder this question, before answering it. Should he, after mature consideration, answer in the negative, he would inevitably throw himself into the following lamentable consequences: he would lay aside all the received data of sound logic concerning one of the most solid and rational bases of certainty, viz. human testimony, and thereby reduce to nought the past of mankind; history would be no longer to him but a mere Arabian tale. He would undermine at once the foundation of the church, the state and the court of justice, which are essentially built on human testimony. He would stop all foreign commercial intercourses which are carried on through a mutual trust in the word of the parties; and finally, place himself in the logical necessity of studying equally well, every branch of science! Indeed, how could he depend on what others have said and written down in the especial department of their studies and professional avocations?

Will people be afraid of such consequences, and at

least, withhold their judgment? No, indeed; I know from experience that there are many who will still persist in considering Animal Magnetism as an imposition, or a delusion. Ministers will still deny it, and those very ministers grant the most explicit credence to the stupendous miracles related in the gospel, mainly on the authority of four men, far inferior in point of knowledge and talent of observation to the modern eminent intellects above mentioned! Lawyers will still deny it, and those very lawyers often exert their best powers to obtain a decree of capital punishment against a fellow-man, solely on the authority of six or seven witnesses! Judges will still deny it, and those very judges will pass sentence of death, or imprisonment for life, on the strength of the testimony of a few individuals! Physicians will still deny it, and those physicians have, a hundred times in their life, applied with the greatest assurance to their patients, remedies which they had never before tried, solely on the authority of their books, or of two or three of their professors!

It will be said, perhaps, "How can we place any confidence in the testimony of others, however respectable they may be, in reference to a matter so utterly repugnant to common sense, and contrary to all known laws of nature,—particularly when we are informed that so many doctrines, now considered absurd and false, have been, for centuries, supported by a crowd of respectable individuals, some of whom ranked among the brightest luminaries of their age?" We answer that those doctrines were supported only from "*a priori views;*" they were questions of opinion, and not of facts, the reality of which could have been ascertained by the application of the senses. Animal Magnetism, on the contrary, is a matter of observation,

and those who have espoused the cause, were convinced only by ocular demonstration. If false doctrines of theology or metaphysics have been so long professed by numerous classes of society, and even by some very intelligent persons, it is precisely because they were out of the circle of sciences of observation, properly so called; they were advocated simply because they agreed either with the religious and philosophical prejudices of certain men, or with their natural tendencies of mind, and the notions inculcated upon them by education. Those doctrines were, oftentimes, embraced with enthusiasm, and defended with fanaticism; being mere matter of opinion, their falsehood could not be demonstrated through actual experiments; and however erroneous they were, it was easy for their blind supporters to explain and sustain them by reasoning. Animal Magnetism being, on the contrary, a science of observation, has not ceased to gain ground more and more rapidly, although violently and generally opposed, because the results of positive experiments proved stronger than all the arguments used against it. It is not advocated from "*a priori views*," or on the ground that it agrees with the religious or philosophical prejudices of man, &c. On the contrary, it apparently attacks and overturns all the received notions of the present generation, all that has been inculcated upon us by philosophy and education! It changes materially, in several points, the mental constitution of mankind. Far from being enthusiastically led into a belief in the reality of it, those who begin the investigation of its claims, are at first decided skeptics; they proceed with diffidence and care in their examination, and, in order to satisfy their mind fully, they do not resort to reasoning, but to repeated, sifted, and positive experiments.

Some will reply, that "*witchcraft*," which is now generally acknowledged to have been a gross and lamentable superstition, was likewise pretended to be founded on facts; that it was, for centuries, believed in by all classes of society, and countenanced even by a crowd of distinguished men, some of whom were the greatest geniuses of their time, &c. We answer, that witchcraft originated from an "*a priori notion*," from a mere article of faith, viz. the belief in the existence of the devil, and in his influence on human affairs. This belief had been handed down from the very beginning of society; it was deeply impressed on the public mind through education, religious doctrines, and social institutions; it had thus become a profound and powerful element of the mental constitution of mankind. The infernal agency being admitted as an indisputable truth, people were forcibly led into the most serious and absurd errors; every thing that appeared strange, was immediately attributed to the diabolical interference; even on some occasions, the public mind was so much engrossed and perverted by that superstition, that they mistook very plain, yea, common natural effects, for evident proofs of an intercourse existing between certain individuals and the evil spirit. Such was, to quote an instance, the witchcraft delusion in Salem, Massachusetts. It is true that there were at times some wonderful and very uncommon phenomena observed, as among the possessed of London, in 1662, the trembleurs des cevennes, or French prophets, the convulsionnaires of St. Medard, in the 18th century, &c. But those phenomena are now admitted to have been the natural results of a peculiar modification of the nervous system and the brain. Some learned authors have, of late, demonstrated their mode of production, and shown their

analogy to certain cases of hysteria and catalepsy. At the time when those singular effects occurred, the sciences of observation were very imperfectly developed, and the belief in witchcraft was prevalent. People, therefore, very naturally attributed them to the agency of the devil, because they had no other means of accounting for them. Now Animal Magnetism did not originate, like witchcraft, from any preconceived idea or popular notion; its claims are not founded on a mere article of faith; and those who have assented to a belief in its reality, had not within themselves, like the partisans of witchcraft, a cause of error. Animal Magnetism, I repeat, sprung from observation; Mesmer and all his disciples have claimed for it the title of natural science; they have constantly endeavored to combat superstition, and remove all remaining prejudices concerning the influence of spiritual agents,* by contending and showing that the phenomena once attributed to the action of the devil, are the results of a peculiar modification of which the nervous organization of man is susceptible, when placed in certain circumstances.

I am going now to meet a more specious objection, which is frequently brought forward. It is said, "If we are to refer to human testimony, why should we place more dependence on the authority of the partizans of Animal Magnetism than on that of its opposers, among whom are found some modern writers of undoubted merit?" I shall refute this argument, by presenting a few remarks on the respective grounds upon which both parties based their opinion. In the first place, it is well worthy of notice, that those who have opposed this science and written against it,

* I except the disciples of Swedenborg, Jacob Bœhme, and St. Martin.

never took the trouble to make experiments themselves, and most of them did not attend experiments made by others. Thus they judged *a priori* of facts, the value of which they never had an opportunity of ascertaining, simply because they appeared too wonderful, too ridiculous, &c. Mr. de Vaugenes, who opposed Mesmer and Deslon with so much violence in 1780—81,—Montégre, who wrote at about the same time, openly declared that they had never attended any experiments. Nay, they pretended that it was "unworthy of a physician and of a true savant to witness any thing of the kind." "As if," observes Dr. Bertrand, "there was any thing more worthy of a true savant than to learn what he does not yet know, and any thing more worthy of a physician than to acquire new means of relieving his patients." Messrs. Bouillaud and Virey do not state in their writings whether they had witnessed regular series of magnetic experiments; Mr. Foi, in his Cours de Pharmacologie, begins by denying the existence of Animal Magnetism, and very inconsistently terminates his article by confessing that he has seen, with his very eyes, some *surprising facts*, some very interesting and curious phenomena; but he does not know what he must think of them. I remember having read in some of the English reviews, two or three long communications, in which neither ridicule nor violence are spared against magnetism; but the authors do not take the trouble to inform us whether they ever tried themselves, or witnessed many magnetic experiments. We might say the same of the opposers of this science in this country; they boldly deny its reality, not because they have found it untrue, after giving it a fair and patient trial—but on the vulgar ground that it is too ridiculous, or contrary to the laws of nature, &c.

Such is the position of the opposers of Animal Magnetism. They wrote against a thing of which they were not at all qualified to judge, as they had not examined it themselves. How vastly different is the character of its advocates and professors! All of them had made experiments themselves, and they wrote from a conviction based upon numerous and well-observed facts. Messrs. Kieser, Kludge, Wolfart, &c. in Germany; Deslon, de Puysegur, Deleuze, Tardy, Bertrand, Rostan, Georget, Foissac, Dupotet, Fillassier, &c., were, or still are, indefatigable practitioners of magnetism. More than this, the warmest and ablest supporters of that doctrine, as the above mentioned gentlemen, had been at first, its opposers, and believed that it could not be true; but they happened to make a trial themselves, succeeded, and were convinced of the contrary. Such a result, we venture to say, is infallible; for, as the magnetic phenomena proced from human nature, they will inevitably manifest themselves whenever and wherever proper applications are made. Now, let the reader decide who are most worthy of credence, those who did not experiment and saw nothing, or those whose assertions are based on indisputable facts produced by personal operations.

It is said, furthermore, that the distinguished men appointed by the king of France, 1784, to investigate the claims of Mesmerism, had attended long series of experiments performed by Dr. Deslon, and that the results of their observations were contrary to the doctrine which they were appointed to examine. I have already discussed this point of history in a previous publication, to which I take the liberty of referring the reader. (See the Report of the Committee of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Paris, &c., preceded with an Introduction, pages 51, 2, 3, 4, 5.) I will add

here a few words only. 1st. I grant that most of the experiments performed before the illustrious gentlemen above alluded to, were contrary to the claims of Mesmer; but still they had observed certain effects which they pronounced to be astonishing and worthy of attention. "All the patients, say they, are submitted to the operator; vainly are they plunged into an apparent drowsiness; his voice, a look, a sign from him, draws them off from that state. It is impossible not to recognize, from these constant effects, a great power that agitates the patients, or affects them, and of which the operator seems to dispose as the only possessor of it."

2dly. Mr. Alexander de Jussieu, one of the most eminent naturalists and philosophers of his age, also a member of a committee appointed by the king, after carefully attending a great number of experiments and experimenting himself upon several patients, deemed it his duty to separate from his colleagues, and published a private report, remarkable in every point, in which he asserts that he had obtained positive results concerning the reality of the magnetic agent.

3dly. Notwithstanding the conclusions of the report signed by such men as Bailly, Franklin, Lavoisier, &c., Animal Magnetism has not ceased to gain ground in France, Germany, Prussia, and other countries; which is, to my mind, an evident proof that a doctrine founded on facts, and the correctness of which every one can ascertain by personal application, cannot be crushed or stopped by opposition.

4thly. Since the publication of the famous report of 1784, some material changes have been made, both in the mode of operation, and in the theory of Animal Magnetism; some new phenomena of a most important character, those of somnambulism, which were not known to Mesmer and Deslon, and about which not a

word is clearly spoken in Bailly's Report, have been discovered, observed and produced in various countries by a crowd of respectable individuals. So we may say that the matter to be examined and decided upon stands on a ground altogether new, the solidity of which it would be supremely unphilosophical and foolish to judge, from the report of the commissioners of the king.

5th. Finally, considering the above circumstances, the Academy of Medicine of Paris, at the suggestion of Dr. Foissac, on the 11th of October, 1825, decreed that it was necessary to make a new examination of Animal Magnetism. A committee of nine members was formed for that purpose. The gentlemen chosen were Bourdois de la Motte, Fouquier, Gueneau de Mussy, Guersent, Itard, Leroux, Marc, Thillaye, and Husson. A regular course of experiments was commenced by them, and pursued during four years. Their reputation and the length of time they were engaged, make it certain that the experiments were carefully made, and can be fully relied upon. In 1831, a report on the results obtained was read before the Academy of Medicine. Those results are decidedly favorable to the claims of magnetizers, and, in the conclusions drawn from them, Animal Magnetism was pronounced to be an important "*therapeutical agent, and a very curious branch of natural history and psychology, upon which the Academy should encourage and favor further researches.*" Since the publication of this last report, the former one has lost completely its value, and can no longer be offered as an authority. If the reader wishes to know something of the titles which the above named scientific gentlemen have to our confidence and respect, I will inform him that Drs. J. J. Leroux and Fouquier are professors at the

medical faculty of Paris, and placed at the head of important services in the hospitals; Husson, Gueneau de Mussy, and Guersent, are celebrated physicians of the hotel dieu, and of the hospital for diseased children; Marc is the first physician of the king; Itard is the director of the institution for the deaf and dumb persons; Bourdois de la Motte and Thillaye are known by valuable writings on various points of science. All these men are distinguished by their morality and standing in society, as well as by their works; their report, therefore, deserves the attention of the candid and enlightened reader. If he rejects their testimony in regard to Animal Magnetism, he places himself in the logical necessity of rejecting also the results of their studies and experience in other branches of science; of tearing to pieces, or removing from his library, their medical works which had been referred to as classical books; for, how can we depend on the opinion of those men on any matter whatever, from the moment we admit that they have either suffered themselves to be grossly deceived by their own senses, or that they have connived together to impose upon the public a most inconceivable tissue of lies?

In the foregoing considerations I have applied myself to demonstrate the truth of Animal Magnetism from the testimony and experience of the scientific men of Europe, who have occupied themselves with the subject. I am aware, however, that the reader's mind is not yet fully satisfied; he will, very probably, say,— "I care but little about what has been said or done in Europe; if your favorite science, be a true one, show us the effects of it in *this country;* name some of our respectable countrymen who have produced or witnessed those wonders; then, we shall be better

prepared to believe you." To this I am happy that I have a most satisfactory answer to give: truth is a seed of a privileged formation; under whatsoever climate, at whatsoever season of the year, or in whatsoever soil it is cast, it will take root, grow and soon bear ample fruit. The following details will show that Animal Magnetism is succeeding and progressing as fast in this country as it did in Europe.

At the time when the writer commenced lecturing in New England, he found the subject almost universally unknown. The greater part of the community were not aware even of the existence of such a science; and among the few who had heard or read about it, perhaps none ever thought of yielding the least belief to the reality of the alleged phenomena.

Nineteen months have elapsed since that period; and already Animal Magnetism has sprung, from a complete state of obscurity and neglect, into general notice, and become the object of a lively interest throughout the country. The press has been every where awakened to the wonderful character of its claims, and the attention of scientific minds attracted by its importance in regard to philosophy, physiology and medicine. At the present moment, it indisputably constitutes, in several parts of New England, the most stirring topic of conversation among all classes of society! How could this great change have been brought about in so short a time? Through the same means by which every natural and positive science ever was established, viz. *the application of the senses, and Experiments.* Indeed, the proceedings through which the phenomena of Animal Magnetism had been produced in Europe, have been used, with an equal success, in several places in this country, by individuals of standing and intelligence: every where results

of a *similar nature* have been obtained, and were observed by a crowd of witnesses, from almost every part of the Union, who were compelled, by the force of evidence, to acknowledge the reality of the facts.

And I beg the reader to notice, that those who have magnetized with success in this country, and whose belief is founded on facts produced by themselves, were formerly skeptical on the subject; even some of them had made themselves conspicuous in the community, by the furious opposition they had made against it.

Among the gentlemen who have practised magnetism in New England and succeeded in producing the magnetic phenomena, I will name the following with whom I have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance. I will observe, however, that I mean to say nothing about their philosophical views and opinions on the subject. I take the liberty of referring to them only as having obtained, on some of their patients or friends, the effects which are generally produced through the operation of Animal Magnetism. In Boston, Drs. McKean, H. A. Dewar, Homans,* Webster, professor of chemistry, J. Ware, Dana, Toothaker of Cambridgeport, Fletcher; Mons. F. Bugard, a well-known teacher of the French language. At Lowell, Alex. Wright, Esq. agent of the carpet manufactory. At Nashua, N. H. Dr. C. Cutter, Messrs. Leo. Marble, Jos. Wheat, and J. F. Marshall. At Bangor, Drs. MacRuer, Jewett, a surgeon dentist, and Mr. Parker. At Providence, Drs. R. Brownell, G. Capron, U. Parsons, Utley, Esten; Messrs. Am. Potter and brother, Andros, Cyrus Grant, Th. Lockwood. At Pawtucket, Rev. D. Greene, Dr.

* I have not the honor of being acquainted with Dr. Homans; but I have heard from several persons who know him, that he had succeeded in putting into the somnambulic sleep a respectable gentleman under his medical care.

Cleaveland, Mr. Alvin Jenks. At Pawtucket, Dr. Cleaveland. At Taunton, Messrs. George Wilmarth, Jos. Dixon, P. Duxbury. At New Bedford, Messrs. Asa Wood, W. Russell, B. C. Taber; Dr. Jer. Stone. At Uxbridge, Mass. Dr. Robbins. At Haverhill, Mass. Dr. Buxton. At Salem, Dr. Fisk.

There are probably many more whose names are not known to me. I am acquainted also with a few ladies who have successfully magnetized. I do not disclose their names here, for reasons that the reader will understand.

Now, I ask whether Animal Magnetism is not proved to be a reality in America, as well as in Europe. Eighteen months ago, there was not a magnetizer in New England! and at the present day I am able, myself alone, to quote forty! Eighteen months ago, there was not a magnetic somnambulist in the country, and at the present moment there are perhaps upwards of two hundred. It was said lately, in the Providence Journal, that upwards of one hundred cases had been observed in Rhode Island alone.

In presence of such a mass of respectable testimonies, of living witnesses, standing in the midst of us, and to whom any one may refer, who can still entertain the opinion that Animal Magnetism is a delusion? who can still doubt its reality? I regret I have to say that there are a great many who will still remain unconvinced; a great many even, who will not have taken any notice of the evidence above afforded: these stubborn and unreasonable skeptics say,—"We have not ourselves seen any thing of Animal Magnetism; show us some striking and satisfactory effects of the magnetic influence, and we shall give our assent to your doctrine; until then, we can but disbelieve." It seems to me that those persons speak so because they do not re-

flect! Indeed, if I exhibited before them some of the phenomena which they desire to witness, how would they become sensible of their reality? Surely, through a careful application of their senses and judgment. Now, is it not through the same means that the above named gentlemen, and the nine signers of the report of the Academy of Medicine of Paris, and all the magnetizers of Europe, became convinced of the truth of magnetism? Can the reader suppose that so many respectable individuals were deprived of sight, hearing, and touch? Can he suppose that their judgment was perverted and annihilated at the moment they examined or themselves produced the somnambulic phenomena? Is it not, on the contrary, very likely and even certain, that they took proper care not to be deceived in a matter so abstruse and uncommon, the investigation of which, they were previously aware, required watching senses, attention, and coolness of judgment? Now let the reader reflect; let him speak like a moral and conscientious being! he cannot possibly reject all the testimonies laid before him, unless he boldly asserts that all the supporters of magnetism were, and still are, fools, dupes or rogues, and that he alone has more accurate senses, better judgment, more talent of observation and morality than all of them at once!

SECTION II.

Further considerations on the manner in which the writer became interested in Animal Magnetism, and the course pursued by him to establish it in New England.

Some additional inferences in favor of Animal Magnetism, might be derived from the manner, in which the one who first undertook to introduce it into this country became acquainted with the science, from the tendencies of his mind and his occupations previous to commencing that undertaking; and lastly, from the course pursued by him to establish the subject in New England. Such is the motive, and I believe it is an important one, that induces me to enter into the following particulars. I hope they will not be judged out of place, in a book the object of which is to afford all possible evidences of the truth of an order of phenomena so generally denied.

Towards the middle of the year 1832, while pursuing my medical studies at Paris, I became affected with a very complicated nervous disease, the principal seats of which were in the stomach and all the right side of the system. Eight months were spent in fruitless trials of all possible medicinal means. I was in a most desperate state of mind and body, when my distinguished friend, Dr. Alfred Fillassier, suggested to me the idea of consulting Dr. Chapelain's somnambulist, Madame Villetard, who, said he, had a superior

power to discern and treat diseases. Without, as yet, much faith in the faculties of somnambulism, which, by the way, I never had an opportunity of observing, I repaired to Dr. Chapelain's lodgings, and communicated to him my wish to be examined. Of course, I took care not to mention a word about my complaint, and in justice to Mr. Chapelain, I must say that he was delicate enough to avoid speaking of it, by immediately introducing another subject of conversation. In the mean time, a note having been sent for Madame V., she arrived, sat down, and was directly put into the magnetic sleep by the Doctor. The lady had never seen me before, and very probably did not know even my name. How much surprised was I, when, after communication had been established between us, I heard her giving a correct and minute description of the symptoms of my disease, as though she had experienced it herself, and, more than that, stating the seat and nature of it, mentioning accurately the articles of food and drink that agreed or not with my stomach.

Until that circumstance, I had never paid any attention to Animal Magnetism: I cannot say that I wholly disbelieved it, for since I have been able to observe the wonderful phenomena of nature and the astonishing progress of mankind in every possible circle of activity, I have thought it unphilosophical to reject any thing *a priori*, on the score that it is impossible; and besides, I had in favor of magnetism the authority of an intelligent and moral friend, whom I knew could not be deceived and had no interest in deceiving others. My heart, therefore, was open to conviction. Madame Villetard's examination was the first fact upon which I based my belief.

Having received the somnambulist's approbation, I passed from France, to the French West Indies, where

a part of my family reside. I spent nearly fourteen months in the islands of Martinique and Guadaloup; there, I found a great many rich and intelligent planters devoted, for their own satisfaction, to the practice of Animal Magnetism. Among them I will quote the Marquis Aymard de Jabrun, a gentleman of the very first rank and education, now a representative of Guadaloup, near the government of the mother country, at Paris. I had the opportunity of witnessing several cases of somnambulism, produced by my friends on some of their colored servants: those cases were altogether remarkable, and they enabled me, more than any thing else, to form the opinion that the human soul was gifted with the same primitive and essential faculties, under every climate, among every nation, and under whatever skin, black, red, or white, it may be concealed.

After fourteen months of residence in those islands, without much improvement in my health, (the somnamlist had told me among other things, that my disease was a difficult one to cure, and that it would take me several years to recover from it,) I took an American vessel in the port of Pte. a Pitre, and sailed for the United States, with the view of trying the climate of this country. I landed at Portland, (Maine,) and thence, went to Haverhill, Mass. where I have an uncle, my own father's brother, who emigrated from France at the time of the Revolution, in 1792, and who has been ever since a citizen of Massachusetts. I spent five months at the old gentleman's house, and then, deemed it best to separate entirely from him, in order to acquire a more prompt and thorough knowledge of the English language. I repaired to Lowell, and there employed my time for six or seven months in teaching my native tongue, and drawing. My

scholars were among the very first families of the cities, who, I may say, without fear of contradiction, universally honored me with their esteem and friendship.

But the teaching of the French tongue and of drawing were not my only occupations at Lowell. Contrary to my expectation in coming over to this country, I soon began to feel a lively interest in the destinies of the American people; having made myself somewhat acquainted with their history, observing with as much care and impartiality as possible their political institutions, individual tendencies, and social character, I began to experience both esteem and attachment for them. I thanked God for having, once more, carried me against my private wishes and sympathies, across the ocean, to know the most perfect nation on earth. From that moment I resolved to assimilate myself to the American society. I conceived it my mission to devote to their general improvement my small share of moral and intellectual powers. I immediately set myself to work on the two most important and stirring topics which, at the time of my arrival, and ever since, occupied the mind of all those who feel an interest in the dignity and welfare of man, viz. education and slavery. I first wrote a small treatise, entitled, *Comparative utility of the study of the ancient and modern languages for promoting the spirit of Christianity and of peaceful association among nations.** The next product of my labors was a "*Philosophical and Historical Essay on Slavery, followed by the exposition of a new system of*

* A pretty long extract of this Essay was inserted, at the request of Mrs. Sarah Hale, in the Ladies' Magazine of April and May, 1836. These articles were kindly and favorably noticed by several other periodicals, among which I will name the Annals of Education, edited by Dr. Alcott, and the Baltimore Atheneum.

measures for the civilization of Africa, and the abolition of Slavery in the United States." In this last work I do not embrace, I, on the contrary, attack the principles of the abolitionists, although I always have had a profound respect for their motives and personal character.

My philosophical views on slavery are the results of long study, and especially of a practical acquaintance of several years with the system itself. The measures which I propose have always appeared to me, and even to several distinguished planters of my acquaintance to whom I have communicated them, as calculated to avoid all social commotions and give equal satisfaction to the parties interested. *

I beg the reader to pardon the above details, which, I am aware, appear foreign to our main subject. I have thought proper to mention them, because I deem them important to inspire him with a little more confidence in the nature and tendencies of my mind, thereby to induce him to look with indulgence upon my subsequent labors on Animal Magnetism, and form a more favorable opinion of the subject itself.

From what precedes, it appears evident that I had yet no idea of lecturing in this country on Magnetism. In fact, I was nearly six months in Lowell, without uttering a word about it. Dr. Elisha Bartlett, the mayor of the city, was the first one to whom I mentioned the subject in the way of conversation: I found that he had read something about it in some of the French works, but I was surprised to hear from him and others that the science was, so far, entirely unknown in this country. I determined to translate

* An extract from this work is to appear in the next number of the *Theological and Literary Review*, published in New York, and conducted by the Rev. Mr. Leo Wood, Jr. professor at the Theological Institution of Bangor.

Dr. Rostan's memoir, and to publish it immediately, as being one of the most scientific and trustworthy documents on the subject. The translation being finished, I carried the manuscript to Boston, to have it printed, if possible; but the matter being not yet popular, and myself laboring under the capital inconvenience of being a foreigner, I could find no bookseller willing to help me in its publication. One of them, however, observed that if I would give a few lectures upon the science, and could succeed in creating an excitement about it, he would very probably publish my translation. I returned to Lowell much disappointed; but without losing either courage or time, I set to writing four lectures, at first in French; (as I did not yet master the English language well enough to write it extemporaneously;) having translated those lectures, I started anew for Boston, and delivered them at Chauncey Hall, before a small, but intelligent and respectable audience.

According to my expectations, the public on hearing that lectures were given on the delusion exploded some fifty-three years ago by "*the great Franklin*," laughed, and denied every thing, without examining. The editors of the press, who, by the way, had not attended my lectures, pronounced, as infallible oracles, that Animal Magnetism was "*not destined to flourish in New England.*" I knew the contrary; being convinced what the magnetic phenomena derive from human nature, when placed under certain circumstances, I knew that if a proper course was adopted, the same results would follow in this country as those that had been obtained in Europe. Such a course, I was aware, was not merely to lecture, but to resort to the only fair test to decide upon a matter of facts, viz. to experiments. My health being still very poor, I could not, and I

declined to practise the operation myself, but proposed to teach others how to do it; even I announced in several papers of the city, that I would be happy to devote an hour or two every day to instruct in the "*modus operandi*" those physicians and other enlightened gentlemen who might feel a desire of investigating the matter. As I was at the time, and have been since, accused by many to aim at no other thing than gain, I will quote the following extract from an article inserted by me in the Daily Advocate, March 23d, 1836—also in the Morning Post, Daily Advertiser, &c.

"The attention of the public being now awakened upon the subject of Animal Magnetism, I announce to those persons who feel an interest in it, and wish for more explicit information, that they may call upon me at my lodgings, 176 Washington street, from four to five in the afternoon. They will find me ready to give them as ample an instruction as they desire, without any other compensation than the pleasure of fulfilling a duty,—that of spreading more widely a truth I have undertaken to make known in this country, as being equally interesting to science, and useful to health. It is not enough for me to have lectured seven or eight times upon Animal Magnetism; I ought also to instruct how to practise it for the good of society. It is not enough for some intelligent and liberal-minded persons to have listened to my lectures, or read a few pages on Animal Magnetism; they ought also to embrace it earnestly, and exercise it as an efficient means of helping their fellow-creatures, when sick. Physicians are especially invited to call. Should they overlook the study of Animal Magnetism, and foolishly disdain to practise it, it would undoubtedly fall, to the greatest regret of sensible and moral persons, into the hands of quacks, and become, perhaps, instrumental of dreadful abuses."

Several called at my lodgings and I taught them gratuitously. Some persons who seemed more friendly towards me, blamed me for thus giving away my time and instruction; they observed that every thing was worth money among the Yankees; that having introduced magnetism in this country, I ought to keep the *secret* for me, or at least not to reveal it to any body else, unless he would consent to pay a high price for it. They observed, furthermore, that if I could not draw any benefit from the secret, on account of my ill health, I might hire a man to magnetize for me, under the written oath that he should not teach any one else without my authority, &c. To all this I replied that magnetism had never been and should not be considered as a "*secret practice;*" that it was a branch of *natural science* which ought to be known as widely as possible for the relief of those who are suffering, and for the advancement of the knowledge of the human mind; that besides, I was not the discoverer of the art, and consequently had no claim to its exclusive possession; that finally, my only ambition was to "*import*" it into America, for the sake of forwarding an important and useful truth.

My object in teaching other people how to magnetize, was to enable them to satisfy themselves about the truth of the science, and to furnish them with the means of eliciting, by personal application, a great number of facts that would have brought it, within a short time, into public notice. The results followed my expectations. Indeed, experiments were performed with the greatest success by some of those I had instructed, not only in Boston, but also in Bangor, Cambridge, and Providence, even five or six months before I had made myself any attempt at magnetizing. There had been cases of somnambulism produced by

members of the faculty and other gentlemen, the details of which were stated by me at full length in the Medical Journal, long before I published the results of my first personal experiments. When first a case was elicited in Boston, under the operation of Mons. Bugard and Dr. Dewar, I invited several well-known scientific men to witness the phenomena, and satisfy themselves of their reality. I pursued the same course in other places; and when I, at last, consented, at the repeated request of Dr. Niles Manchester, of Pawtucket, to operate upon one of his patients who was at that time laboring under a serious affection of the stomach, I called, from the very second time I magnetized the person, upon most of the physicians of the place, and invited them, together with some other gentlemen, to witness the results of my experiments. They were successful, and those who were present expressed their satisfaction. Since, she was operated upon by me in the presence of the officers of Brown University, and of a crowd of other respectable individuals from Providence and vicinity, as it will be seen in the following narratives.

At the suggestion of several persons of both sexes, some of whom are eminent by their works and rank in society, I conceived the idea of inviting the somnambulist, whose surprising faculties had excited so great an interest in Rhode Island, to go to Boston with me. This measure, I know, has been the subject of many critical remarks from a part of the public; it has been often said that I had concerted a plan with the person to whom I have alluded; that my only object was to train her up to feign the pretended phenomena of somnambulism, in order to draw as much money as I could from credulous persons; speeches of a still worse kind have, probably, been in circulation. I must,

therefore, give a frank explanation of the motives which induced me to accept the assistance of Miss Gleason.

During the eight months that I had been lecturing on Animal Magnetism, the science had made but very little progress towards its establishment. A few isolated cases of somnambulism had been elicited, but the public knew scarcely nothing about them; those who had successfully magnetized were not willing to disclose their names and publish the results of their own observations. Those few cases, therefore, excited but little interest, as they did not emanate from well-known and trustworthy sources. Considering that state of things, I determined to create, if possible, a general excitement upon the subject, as being the only way of leading physicians and other persons to perform experiments. I knew that by resorting to experiments on a wide scale, a great many cases would soon be obtained; that Animal Magnetism would thus become the object of public attention and interest; that it would march rapidly towards a state of durable and useful existence; that, finally, the charges of imposition and quackery which had been lavished upon me, would be taken away, and perhaps make room for kind feelings and esteem for my character.

But, how could I create the desired excitement? It was by showing to a great number of persons the curious and surprising phenomena that I had produced, by publishing in the newspapers, the results of my experiments! Such were the principal motives which induced me to adopt the course that I have pursued in Providence, Boston, and other places. My expectations have not been deceived; the public know that from the moment I begun to exhibit and publish the phenomena elicited by me, a new start was given to Animal Magnetism; the general attention was awaken-

ed; a number of respectable persons repeated the operations themselves, and in a short time the reality of the facts was established in the minds of all those who took proper care to inform themselves about them.

Other motives induced me to accept the assistance of a somnambulist to illustrate my lectures. I am going to state them with frankness.

In undertaking publicly to pledge my word for the truth of Animal Magnetism, I felt bound to persevere in the enterprise until, at least, I had demonstrated the reality of what I had advanced. I must have, in consequence, given up all other occupations to devote myself exclusively to establishing the announced science. But, every one, knows, that this new and difficult work was not a lucrative one, by any means. Indeed, the first course of lectures I delivered in Boston, took upwards of twenty dollars out of my purse. Soon after, I published, at my own expense, (save the amount advanced by sixty or seventy subscribers that I had been able to obtain,) the Report of the Committee of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Paris; which publication took again upwards of an hundred dollars out of my small means. I kept losing in nearly the same proportion for four or five months, and had I not, very timely, received some funds from my country, I should have been compelled either to return home, or to engage in some other employment. That I could not support myself by lecturing on Magnetism, can be easily understood, for the science was hardly known, and most of those who had heard of it, deemed it so completely absurd and incredible, that they would not take the trouble of inquiring farther into it. Lecturing on such a subject was, then, a certain source of pecuniary loss. I will dare say, that out of ten thousand men of educa-

tion, not one would have consented at that time to engage in it, under so unfavorable circumstances. Indeed, wherever I went, except in Bangor, (Maine,) I was obliged to lay out my own money to pay my expenses.

Eight months had already elapsed, without as yet a better prospect of pecuniary compensation. The funds I had received from my native country, were fast drawing to an end. I was then in the city of Provi dence, where my lectures had not proved any more profitable than elsewhere. I began to reflect seriously on my very precarious situation; a dark horizon presented itself to my anxious eyes; I saw myself, unknown in a foreign land, abandoned, reduced to the utmost degree of poverty, without kind friends to help me, and, what I considered as a most unfortunate circumstance, having in my bosom a proud heart, that had never before experienced misfortune and contempt, decided to suffer in silence, rather than to beg the assistance of strangers. All this preyed upon my mind with such a force, that I resolved twenty times to sail back immediately to the West Indies. There, my parents own a large sugar plantation, with many slaves; and there, I knew, I might in the future, as I had in the past, find a comfortable existence. But two insuperable obstacles presented themselves to my returning home. On the one hand, slavery, the basis of society in the West Indies, and which has always been as repugnant to my sympathies as adverse to my doctrines; On the other hand, the fear of leaving behind me, in this country, the reputation of a visionary man, and perhaps of impostor, which would have inevitably been attached to my character, had I left America without having proved the correctness of my public assertions.

I decided, therefore, to stay a little longer, and try the destinies once more. I became convinced that the only way for me to get along conveniently, and, at the same time, to obtain the means of accomplishing the mission I had proposed to myself, was to render my lectures profitable, at the risk of exciting the clamors of the fools and hypocrites.

But how was it possible for me to obtain this result? It was by announcing to the public that I would, like all other lecturers on natural sciences, illustrate by experiments the principles advanced by me, viz. exhibit before "*those who would attend my course of lectures*" the phenomena of somnambulism. By following this plan, I thought I could induce a good number to come and hear, with the hope that they would witness the curious effects which they had heard about. Such were the other motives that led me to accept the assistance of a somnambulist in my lecturing career. I must add that the phenomena I had produced were so admirable, they had excited so much interest and enthusiasm in me, that I did not feel willing to give them up, and part forever with the somnambulist who had offered them to my observation. I wished to examine them longer, with the view of acquiring a more thorough knowledge of the whole matter, by daily experiments made in every possible way, and under all possible circumstances. I felt that my health, which had become singularly feeble through my exertions in Rhode Island, would not permit me to magnetize new subjects, and that, at all events, it would be exceedingly difficult for me to find another somnambulist equal to Miss G., in variety and extent of powers.

Now that I have candidly and barely exposed the motives of my conduct since I left Providence, I proceed on my narrative.

At my arrival in Boston, in January last, I performed a series of experiments on my somnambulist, before twelve or fifteen of the most distinguished gentlemen of the city. Out of those experiments, a single one made to test the power of vision, failed; all the others were successful. I do not pretend that every person present was convinced, but none could prove that the performances were not fair, and among those who expressed their satisfaction, I will mention here, Messrs. W. Jenks, Jr., G. S. Hillard, J. G. Whittier the Poet, and Dr. W. Lewis, four gentlemen of undoubted merit, and well known soundness of mind. At the request of two professors of the Medical Faculty and of Professor Treadwell of Cambridge college, I made another series of experiments, especially to test the power of mental communication. Out of eight mental commands suggested to me by the gentlemen, on small bits of paper, and without a word spoken, three were faithfully executed, two others were obeyed but not in a clear and distinct manner; three could not be understood at all; yet, even in these cases of failure the somnambulist manifested, by her gesture and words, that she was affected in some measure by my mental action. Subsequently to these experiments, I delivered a course of lectures at Chauncey Hall. All those who attended had the privilege of witnessing, fifteen or twenty at a time, an exhibition of the somnambulic phenomena at my private room. I may venture to say that most of those who saw my performances, were satisfied that Animal Magnetism was not all a delusion; and if it were not for fear of being tedious and too minute, I might quote here a great number of highly respectable persons. But it is not the design of God that a great truth, destined, from the moment of its discovery, to grow and live forever with

mankind, should have a light and easy foundation. It must be built on the rocky, uneven, but solid ground of opposition; it must develope itself through the conflict of popular prejudices and the scorns of ridicule! Such is the lesson taught to us by the past: let us not be surprised, therefore, at the manifestation of the popular spirit at the present time.

I must say that I met in Boston more opposition than any where else: my experiments were often misrepresented, and a few accidental failures spoken of as evident proof of deception. The conductors of the press were repeatedly invited by me at my lectures and performances; none of them deemed it worth their while to accede to my invitation, and yet, although, they had seen and heard nothing, they did not hesitate to criticize my doings most bitterly, and to represent the whole subject as a stupendous imposition. Even some went so far as to boldly call me an impostor in the public prints. I had not been habituated, I must confess, to see my intentions suspected, my acts so unfairly falsified, my character ridiculed! These are injuries which, although I expected they would inevitably follow from the very situation which I assumed before the public, and from the extraordinary nature of the doctrine advocated by me; these, I say, are injuries, which it is not in the power of my organization to bear without intense moral sufferings. To be frank, my past independent mode of living, the nature of my previous occupations, and the esteem of honest people which I had invariably enjoyed wherever I had been, had rendered me exceedingly sensitive about my morality and reputation. I never could believe that my meaning and actions could be doubted and slandered in so rude terms as they have been. Therefore, the suspicious looks of my visiters, the close scrutiny

to which I was often submitted, the smile, and injurious remarks frequently uttered in my presence, the ungentlemanly conduct of some ignorant and self-conceited individuals, &c.—all such circumstances bore hard on my character and temperament. I became anxious; my mind was in a constant state of perplexity, my nervous system grew exceedingly weak and irritable! In short, the performance of the magnetic experiments, the success of which depends entirely on the state, both mental and bodily, of the two parties interested, became painful and difficult for me. I was alarmed for the cause of truth, and fearful that occasional failures, proceeding wholly from my disordered condition of mind, would be considered as proof of imposition, by a prejudiced public, as yet unenlightened on the laws which regulate the manifestation of the somnambulic phenomena, and on the causes which may disturb the magnetic influence. I resolved, therefore, to follow another course, which should prove, at least, my entire honesty. It was to allow my somnambulist to be operated on by some other person, of well-known intelligence and morality. By so doing, if the same effects could be obtained by a third one, wholly disinterested in the matter, all suspicions of collusion would vanish away, and the truth could be established without further obstacle in the mind of all candid and careful observers. Such has been the course pursued by me in my lecturing tour through Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and I will venture to say, that the results have been satisfactory to the science and the public as well as to myself. I shall hereafter mention the names of fifteen gentlemen who have successfully magnetized the somnambulist who was under my care, and upon whom I have usually performed. I shall also exhibit the certificates of some of them, in

which it will be seen that the person has been frequently operated on with the greatest success, even when I was several miles away from her, and, therefore, could not know what was going on. Besides, I determined, although my health was becoming more feeble, to magnetize new subjects, some of whom were entire strangers to me. I shall also tell, in the following pages, the results of these experiments.

Here I must finish the account I had proposed to give of the manner in which I became interested in Animal Magnetism, and of the course I thought it proper to adopt to introduce it into this country. In the foregoing narrative the reader must have noticed, 1st, That in coming over to America I had no other idea than the recovering of my health, and not the least intention of ever lecturing on magnetism. 2dly, That I undertook lecturing on it solely with the philosophic view of calling the attention of an intelligent and fast progressing people upon a branch of science highly important, in my mind, to psychology as well as to physiology and medicine, and of which they should not any longer remain ignorant. 3dly, That my conduct and way of treating the subject did not appear to be that of a man whose object is gain. 4thly, That I gratuitously taught to all those who wished to investigate Animal Magnetism, the way of practising it, viz. the best and only sure means of satisfying themselves and the public about its reality or falsehood. 5thly, That when, after several other gentlemen, I succeeded in putting, myself, a person into the somnambulic state, I proposed, in order to remove the doubts of my classes, that the same person should be magnetized by a third one, even in my absence, and at any time of the day. 6thly, That, finally, this person has really been operated upon by fifteen gentlemen,

belonging to different professions, living in different places, having no acquaintance with each other, and the certificates of whom are of the most positive character.

Now, from all the facts and arguments above presented, let the candid and intelligent reader decide whether Animal Magnetism can be a deception practised through a plan concerted between two individuals, and whether the writer of these pages has ever exhibited the character of a juggler and impostor!

C. POYEN.

PART II.

EXPERIMENTS, CERTIFICATES, REPORTS, ETC., TO SERVE FOR THE HISTORY OF ANIMAL MAGNETISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

SECTION I.

General Remarks.

A FACT which places the reality of Animal Magnetism beyond doubt in the mind of every sensible and moral man, is that, within eighteen months past, upwards of one hundred cases of somnambulism have been produced in this part of the country; and although most of those somnambulists were completely ignorant of the various phenomena generally exhibited during the magnetic state, yet the effects and faculties presented by them, coincide entirely with what has been observed in Europe and in the French West Indies. I am aware that some vulgar-minded and ungenerous skeptics affirm, that there can be no such thing as magnetic somnambulism, and that all the cases mentioned in New England were, or still are, feigned. On what evidence do those unfeeling opposers base their bold assertions? On the ground, I repeat, that the alleged phenomena are inexplicable, impossible, contrary to the laws of nature, &c.; or on the strength of a few superficial observations, which, in their utter ignorance of the matter itself, and of the various causes

that may disturb the faculties of a somnambulist, have "appeared to them as evident proofs of deception." I should not trouble my mind again about refuting such injurious and absurd suppositions, but as they have been widely circulated by the press and in pamphlets written in a popular style,* as a great many respectable characters have been seriously compromised in the eyes of the blind multitude, I deem it my duty to offer a few remarks more, highly calculated, it seems to me, to neutralize the ill tendency, and show the perfect nonsense of those accusations.

In his *Essay on the Probabilities of Magnetic Somnambulism*, Fournier says, on the very point which now occupies us, "In order to admit that the somnambulic phenomena are the result of impositions, the union of two things are necessary; 1st, That somnambulists have the intention of deceiving; 2dly, That they are skilful enough to do it. But, in the first place, we must confess that among those who have fallen into somnambulism, there are many above all suspicion of deception; they are respectable mothers, men of a grave character and well-known probity, simple people, and children in whom we cannot reasonably suppose the design of feigning such a state. Is it the party spirit, and the desire of giving an appearance of reality to magnetism, that induce them to practise deception? But most of those individuals care but little about the success of magnetism, and many among them knew nothing of it at the time when they were put into the magnetic sleep. In the next place, we should notice that if the magnetic practices were supported by deception only, no honest person would submit to them, or have any thing to do with them. It would have

* See notice of Mr. Durant's work, at the end of this volume.

been, then, necessary to seek the assistance of depraved people, chosen in the lowest class, and admit them in the possession of the secret, at the '*risk of seeing it revealed and published the very next day.*' This is not all; it would have been necessary to find in those individuals a prodigious skill to play the difficult personage, and courage enough to resist the trials, sometimes exceedingly painful, exercised upon them by the suspicious public. If the things had been so managed, somnambulism would not have lasted long; and, far from establishing itself by time, the illusion and imposture would have soon become evident, from the impossibility of procuring actors capable of sustaining the fraud. The contrary has been the case; somnambulism gains partisans every day, and the success which it obtains contradicts all ideas of imposition."

These remarks were written in 1785, a short period after the discovery of somnambulism in France; time has proved how correct and judicious they are: we may very appropriately apply them to the somnambulists of this country, and their correctness shall be more and more felt here, as it has been in Europe.

Those who have been put into the magnetic sleep in this country, belong to both sexes, and they are persons of almost every age. The writer of these pages had himself alone the opportunity of observing twenty-eight. Among them were five children, one of eight years, another of nine, two of eleven years, and one of twelve. Two of these children have been frequently magnetized by their own mother, and for no other purpose than the benefit of their health; a third one was, for the first time, somnambulized, and has always since been magnetized by her own brother. The two others were operated upon by gentlemen of indisputable talents and probity; both of them were in good

health; and as the extraordinary character of the phenomena obtained, began to attract much notice, their parents caused the experiments to cease. Can we suppose that those children, innocent and artless as they are, were practising deception? Among the other somnambulists I have known, one was and is still now magnetized by her own brother: can we suppose she is feigning? Another, at Taunton, is a young physician of a most amiable and respectable character; another, at Lowell, is an eminent lawyer:* can we suppose that both have practised deception?

Out of all the persons put into somnambulism, not more than four or five ever had any pecuniary object in view. Supposing that these few have deceived their magnetizers and the people, what was the object of all the others to do the same? Were they seeking notoriety? But are mankind so depraved and mean as to sacrifice their honor, reputation, and future happiness to the most extravagant desire of being famed as somnambulists? We know, on the contrary, that most of those who have been put into the magnetic state, were, and still are, opposed to have their names published, and a great many have even ceased to submit themselves to the operations from the moment they became notorious. But, after all, how could so many persons, most of whom were plain-hearted, artless, feeble, and diseased women, have succeeded in deluding so long their magnetisers, who, in the generality of cases, are superior in every point to them? Is not such a supposition wholly inadmissible? Let us reflect, besides, that from the very nature of the experiments, most of which are performed by the will alone, without the aid of language or signs, deception becomes utterly impossible; and if any was attempted, it could be

*This person has been magnetized once, only, but very successfully.

much more easily detected than any other sort of imposture that can be pointed out. The numerous and gross failures which sometimes take place, are, to my mind, evident demonstration that there is no concerted plan between the parties, and no attempt at imposition from the part of the somnambulist.

Let the sober reader ponder the foregoing remarks, and he will see how unfair, absurd, repugnant to reason and all feeling of charity, are the accusations of imposture brought forward against the magnetic somnambulists! I now proceed to the exposition of the facts which I have announced.*

* If the reader wishes for more cases of somnambulism, I would refer him to the notes and numerous facts appended to Deleuze's Practical Instruction, translated by my estimable friend, Thos. C. Hartshorn, of Providence.

SECTION II.

Boston and Vicinity.

A PART of the materials comprised under this head have already appeared in several newspapers; being collected together, they will present a mass of proofs to which the hardiest skepticism must yield, unless, indeed, it arises from a deranged brain, or a profound and incurable injustice.*

* "There is," says Dr. Georget, in his chapter on magnetic somnambulism, (Physiology of the Nervous System, vol. 1, p. 270,) "there is a very essential precaution to be taken by those who wish to make useful experiments; it is to avoid surrounding oneself with dishonest and incredulous persons: I frequently had to complain about them and my somnambulists have experienced great troubles from them, and almost always serious accidents." Dr. Rostan, Deleuze, and in short every well-informed magnetizer, have recommended the same precaution; they knew indeed, from repeated observation, that such people are apt to suggest difficulties in the way of the experimenter, and exercise a wrong and disturbing mental influence over the somnambulist.

There are individuals of such an extravagant self-conceit, that they fancy that nothing is true but what they know and comprehend; of such an asinine stubbornness, that they will oppose facts the best established in the mind of all others; of such a shallowness of intellect and judgment, that they will condemn an abtruse and complex science, which requires the study of years and the constant application of the senses, merely because a few things they have witnessed in passing, did not agree with their preconceived notions; of such a blind pre-

The phenomena of somnambulism, which are to be subsequently described, may be ranged in the following order:—"Suspension, more or less complete, of the external sensibility; intimate connexion with the magnetizer and with no other one; influence of the will; communication of thought; clairvoyance, or the faculty of seeing through various parts of the body, the eyes remaining closed; unusual development of sympathy, of memory, and of the power of imagination; faculty of appreciating and keeping time; faculty for seizing the symptoms of diseases and prescribing proper remedies for them; entire forgetting, after awaking, of what has transpired during the state of somnambulism."

For the sake of clearness and order, I shall present the materials under the head of the respective places in which they were obtained.

sumption, that they speak and act in regard to a matter they have never inquired into, as though they were better qualified to investigate and decide upon it, even than those who have devoted months after months to its examination; of so little respect for their fellow-beings, that they will consider them all as superficial observers, poor dupes of miserable jugglers; of so little charity and reserve, that they do not hesitate in pronouncing those who do not agree with their prejudices, as fools or rogues, and throw ridicule upon the most respectable searchers after truth. Such characters I consider as evident manifestations of the "*evil spirit;*" they seem to have been framed purposely to "*try*" good men, and put obstacles to the regular development of truth on earth; they are but worthy of contempt, and ought to be avoided as much as possible. Men of that description I have frequently met in my career, and I have learned, through hard experience, how to deal with them.

Extracted from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of April 6th, 1836.

I was called, on the 20th of this month, to a lady, Mrs. R——, living at No. 54, Belknap Street, who wished to have magnetism tried upon her. Mrs. R—— is a woman fifty-two years of age, of a lymphatic temperament, nervous, with a strong predominance of the nervous system. She told me she was afflicted, four or five years since, with the tic doloureux in her back, and a rheumatic complaint, which occupied all the inferior part of the trunk; that is, the two hips, the lower part of the vertebral column, and the adjacent muscles. These affections were complicated with a chronic complaint of the liver. Several physicians had attended her, and drugs were not spared; but all was in vain. Mrs. R—— suffered more and more, and for several days previous to my visit, was confined to her chamber. She had not slept a wink for two nights. When I entered her room, I found her on a rocking-chair, in the most excruciating pains. She had almost continual spasmodic fits, which ran from the inferior part of the spinal marrow and the lower part of the abdomen up to the stomach, the diaphragm and the region of the heart, and kept her in the greatest state of distress. Mrs. L——, her friend, who was present, confirmed every thing said by her, and added, that she, Mrs. R——, had been unable to stir and go down for three days.

After examination, I thought the case a proper one for the application of magnetism. Being not able myself to magnetize, owing to a weakened and disordered

nervous system, I brought with me, to Mrs. R——'s room, a countryman of mine, M. Bugard, a teacher of the French language in this city, who is enjoying full health, and to whom I had communicated the knowledge of the magnetical process. M. B. had already practised upon me two or three times. I had felt his action, and judged from that he would be a good magnetizer. I might say here, before going any further, that Mrs. R—— and her friends were utterly ignorant of Animal Magnetism, even of the meaning of the word, and I have constantly kept them since in the same ignorance about it.

Mrs. R—— has been magnetized six times, on the 20th, 22d, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 29th inst. As I intend giving a lecture soon, upon Animal Magnetism, in which I shall relate all the particulars in regard to those various sittings, I will content myself with mentioning here, in general terms, the most important phenomena. At the first course of operation, the patient slept two hours, and felt sensibly relieved by it. At the second operation, she slept all the night, viz. from ten o'clock in the evening, until seven or eight the next day. She began to be so well, that she was able to go down and attend to her housework. She said that she felt especially relieved from her palpitations of heart. (I was not yet aware of the existence of that other complaint in her.) At the third sitting, she showed the first symptoms of somnambulism. She could hear perfectly well, and answered by monosyllables, in a low voice. In the fourth and fifth sittings, she manifested a very remarkable degree of somnambulism. The chief phenomena we observed in these two last courses of operation were the following :—

1st.—The patient could hear nobody else but the mag-

netizer, to whom she answered, even when he spoke to her in a low voice. 2d.—The insensibility of the external senses. The somnambule remained insensible to the severest trial exercised upon her; such as pinching her feet and hands, puncturing her skin with a pin, blowing the smoke of tobacco into her nose, burning bits of candle-paper under her nose, speaking loud to her, clapping our hands before her ear, shaking her arms and legs, and she did not stir a single time. 3d.—The complete forgetfulness, when awaked, of what she had said, and what was told or happened to be heard during her sleep. She already felt so well, that she spoke of setting out on a journey to Beverly, near Salem, on particular business.

I now arrive at this morning's sitting (29th inst.) I will particularly describe what took place in that sitting, for it was intended to be a scientific examination of the case, by some respectable medical gentlemen of this city. This examination, I say by the way, we had deferred until this moment—wishing to have the patient thoroughly under the magnetical influence before showing her to any person whatever. Judging, then, that it was time to have such an examination made, we invited Drs. Winslow Lewis, G. B. Doane, Samuel G. Howe, J. V. C. Smith, and H. Kimball, to resort to the patient's house at about ten o'clock in the forenoon. Of the five gentlemen above mentioned, two could not come, being detained elsewhere by some previous engagement. We found the patient already prepared and waiting for us in her apartment. Being asked how she felt, she answered, pretty nicely. Dr. Lewis asked her several questions concerning her complaints, and the treatment she had been following. Both from her answers and her whole appearance, it

was evident that Mrs. R—— was a plain, sincere, and candid woman, knowing nothing of magnetism, except the good she had already received from it. We asked her whether she had slept well last night; she answered she had slept but very little. Before commencing the operation, Dr. Lewis touched her pulse—it was ninety-six a minute. The operator commenced at twenty-five minutes past ten; in the course of twenty minutes she appeared very drowsy; sighed several times, coughed a little; we noticed some slight motions of the muscles of the face. Finally, she closed her eyelids, at ten minutes before eleven. The operation had been disturbed two or three times by the coming in and going out of several persons, and also by an almost continual noise in the street, and on the stairs of the house. At this moment Dr. Doane was introduced into the apartment. Drs. Lewis and Kimball touched her pulse, and found that the number of pulsations had come down to seventy-six, twenty less than when the operation commenced. Mons. Bugard asked her several questions about her present feeling, and the state of her health—she answered in a low voice, but very distinctly to the surrounding persons. Drs. Lewis, Doane and Kimball asked her also several questions, but received no answer. The patient being not in relation with them, could not hear what they said. M. Bugard asked her whether she liked the smell of tobacco. She answered that she could not bear it; that tobacco made her very sick. Then Dr. Doane, at my invitation, said to her, in a loud voice, "Mrs. R——, M. Poyen is going to burn a cigar under your nose;" but the patient did not stir —she had not heard. I lighted up a cigar, filled my mouth with smoke, and blew it into her nose. I also

held the cigar, while smoking, before her face—she felt nothing. I clapped my hands twice, and Dr. Kimball moved with much noise a piece of furniture behind her head. We kept talking and moving about her, but she remained quietly sleeping, nothing disturbed her. But Dr. Kimball having clapped his hands twice at her ear, she moved her head and complained a little, as a person struck by a sudden and unexpected noise. The magnetizer asked her what it was. She answered, "a cracker." In the meanwhile I put a bit of blazing paper under her nose; but we noticed that she breathed the smoke, and yet did not stir. The magnetizer passed his hands before her face, with a strong intention to calm her and keep on the state of somnambulism; she exclaimed—"Oh! what a light!" M. B. "A light?" "Yes, a light; it dazzles me." M. B. "How does that light shine?" "Like the sun." M. B. "Do you see it still?" "Yes, before my face." We were all in amazement, and I particularly was struck with the coincidence of that phenomenon, manifested in this country, in a person quite ignorant of magnetism, with what had been observed in the somnambules of Europe. M. B. carried his hand down to the abdomen. "Do you see now that light?" "No, it is gone." M. B. brought again his hand before the face. The somnambule exclaimed, "Here it is again." M. B. "How do you like it?" "I don't like it; it dazzles me." M. B. "Do you see my hand?" "No." "Do you feel it?" "Yes, very well." "How do you feel it?" "Warm, very warm." M. B. then takes his hand away, and the somnambule says again, "The light is gone." Dr. Lewis speaks to her, but obtains no answer. The magnetizer takes Dr. Lewis's hand and puts it into the somnambule's—

with a *desire* that she may hear and answer him. Dr. Lewis spoke again to her, and she soon answered him, but rather low. Dr. Kimball placed a silver pencil case upon her face, but she felt nothing. Then holding it at about three or four inches distant from her eyes, M. B. asked her whether she sees something? She answers, "Yes." "What is it?" "A piece of silver,"—and her eyes were perfectly closed. But here is a phenomenon still more surprising. I suggested to the magnetizer the idea of convulsing a limb by directing his fingers, at several inches distant, towards that limb. The somnambule could not by any means understand what I said, for I spoke to M. B. in French. Agreeably to my suggestion, M. B. stretched his two fingers towards the right hand, at about two or three inches distant, and immediately the limb was seized with convulsive motions, slight at first, but increasing with such an intensity that the patient could not keep her arm in place. Drs. Lewis and Kimball tried the same experiment, but unsuccessfully. I directed my two fingers towards the same hand, and it was set to convulsions. Dr. Doane tried after me, and appeared to produce also some effect. A few minutes after, Dr. Lewis, in order to prevent all deception, put a book before the patient's eyes, and told me, *by signs*, to convulse the hand. I directed my fingers, and the whole arm was so much agitated that the patient complained, and moved her whole body, with an expression of intense suffering on her face. M. B. magnetized her, and put her to a quiet repose. Wherever he carried his hands, the pain was taken away, as by charm.

Such are the most interesting particulars of this morning's sitting—all which, as I said, was witnessed by Drs. Lewis, Doane and Kimball, and Mrs. L. the

somnambule's friend. The patient was awaked at about twelve o'clock. Being asked how long she had been sleeping, she answered that she had been resting twelve or fifteen minutes at the longest. She had not the least recollection of what she had said or suffered during the operation. CHARLES POYEN.

Boston, March 29, 1836.

From the Evening Gazette, Boston, May 21*st*, 1836.

The following surprising effects of Animal Magnetism were observed in the *Seance* of Sunday Eve. 17th inst., in presence of Prof. J. Ware, Prof. Treadwell, Drs. C. T. Jackson, H. Dewar, Ch. Poyen, &c. Dr. H. Dewar was the magnetizer; the operation lasted from thirty-five to forty minutes. The patient was sitting in her rocking-chair; five minutes after she had closed her eyes, the magnetizer ceased his action and left her in a quiet repose for two or three minutes. Then we began making experiments, to ascertain whether she actually was in the somnambulic sleep. Dr. Dewar, the magnetizer, (this should be noticed, for somnambulists usually hear nobody else but the magnetizer) spoke to her in a voice rather low, and she answered correctly. Drs. Ware and Jackson asked her several questions concerning her health and present state; she gave no answer. They spoke still louder and nearer; she remained perfectly insensible. They approached her, took her hands shook her, and spoke again very loud close to her ear; she moved her lips and made with her tongue a noise expressing impatience and pain. As these gentlemen continued crying out in her ear, she moved her head, and seemed to

feel the sensation of an unpleasant noise on her tympan, without, however, having the perception of a distinct articulate sound. Then the magnetizer went and placed himself at the opposite corner of the room, nearly sixteen or eighteen feet distant, spoke to her in a sort of whisper that we could hardly distinguish; she answered him perfectly well. The bystanders asked her the very same question, close by her ear, very loud, and she heard nothing. The tongs and a chair were cast violently and suddenly on the floor; every one of us was startled by the noise; the somnambulist alone stirred not. Several trials very severe, such as pinching her hands and feet, pulling her hair, were executed upon her, and she gave no sign of sensibility. Dr. Jackson then took out of his pocket, a bottle of liquid concentrated ammoniac; he previously approached the cork of it to the nose of each of us; the effluvia was so strong that it caused us to throw back instantly our head. Every one of us confessed that no human being could bear such a trial, without injury to his organs; and yet the bottle was held under the somnambulist's nose nearly two minutes and she gave not the slightest sign of sensibility. Having been asked whether she had felt any thing, she answered in the negative. In order to ascertain how far the communication between the magnetizer and the magnetized person extended, and what degree of acuteness the somnambulist's organ of hearing might have reached in that state, Dr. Jackson thrust both his hands into her ears, as closely as he could, and Dr. Dewar having placed himself at the opposite corner of the room, spoke to her in a low voice; she answered as readily as before. We tried the same experiment upon ourselves, but could not hear any distinct sound, although we were spoken to loudly. Furthermore, the

magnetizer went out of the room, (the door remaining shut,) proposed several questions to the somnambulist, which she answered readily, although a great confusion of noises was made in the apartment for the purpose of preventing her hearing. Having been asked whether she had heard any thing, she said she had heard Dr. Dewar speaking to her and no other noise. But whenever a bystander was put in communication with the somnambulist by holding her hand, she would immediately hear him and answer his questions; she ceased hearing from the moment the communication was interrupted.

In reference to the case of somnambulism above described, Dr. C. T. Jackson says, in a letter inserted in the Boston Courier, February 18th, 1837, "I saw Mrs. Russell's case, which was, I believe, detailed in the Medical Journal, and experimented very severely, to detect her, if she was acting a fraudulent trick. Although we treated her in this manner, we were unable to detect any imposition; and when it is remembered how powerful were our tests, I think any reasonable man will hesitate ere he pronounces it a fraud on her part. The gentlemen present, were two of our most acute and scientific physicians, who could neither explain nor gainsay the results.

From the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal of July 6th, 1836.

The experiments and operations herein mentioned, were performed on a girl of the age of twelve years and a half, and who has been affected with epilepsy ever since her sixth year. She is under the care of Mons. Bugard, a French teacher in this city, and *not* a

professor of magnetism, who disinterestedly uses his magnetic powers merely for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, and in philosophic investigation. The patient has been magnetized thirteen times, often in presence of Drs. Ware, Lewis and Glover, of Boston. She certainly has been affected by the operations, and apparently favorably. That she is under the influence of magnetism, will be evident from the following statement.

On the 27th inst. Dr. Ware meeting Mons. Bugard, inquired of him concerning the health of his patient. Mons. B. replied that he thought her better—and from what I can see, he continued, I think that magnetism has great power over her, inasmuch as she seems to have no sense of feeling during the operation; to-morrow we intend to extract a decayed molar tooth. Do you not think that she will awake? asked the doctor. I do not know; but since, in France, much more severe surgical operations have been performed on persons under its influence, *without producing pain*, I think we may succeed in this case. I assure you she will awake, said Dr. W. I do not know, replied Mons. B.—I have no doubt of it; however, I should like to see it.—I should be happy to have your attendance.

On the next day the contemplated operation was performed by the writer, in presence of Drs. Ware and Glover; not only without awakening her, but without even the slightest indication of feeling on her part. After she awoke, ten or fifteen minutes having elapsed, she conversed with us several minutes, without any reference to what had taken place. These circumstances, so extraordinary, both from the age and sex of the patient and the nature of the operation, led to the invitation of several scientific gentlemen to witness

the operation of this day. We subjoin the history of the *seance* of the 30th of June, at which Professor Treadwell, of Harvard University, Drs. Ware, Lewis, Harwood, and Lodge, A. D. Parker, Esq. and Messrs. Ware and West, medical students, were present.

Pulse, before magnetizing, ranged from 84 to 90. Mons. B. began at 19 minutes before 10. The patient immediately complained of feeling sleepy. At the end of three minutes, Dr. Harwood and Mr. Parker entered the room; at four minutes, the tickling of the lips, nostrils, and ears of the patient produced no motion; the right eyelid was raised, the lower lip was drawn down, without her notice. Five minutes having elapsed, Mons. B. addressed her. Louisa!—Sir.—How do you feel?—Sleepy.—Do you want very much to sleep?—Yes.—How long have you slept?—I don't know.—Holding his hands before her face, Do you feel my hands?—No.—Louisa, let me see your tongue: patient complied with the request, and put out her tongue. Seven minutes—was requested by Mons. B. to open her mouth, which she did, and tooth was examined. Dr. Ware: Louisa?—Sir.—How do you do? Very well.—Do you hear any thing?—No.—No noise in the street?—No. (A carriage was then passing.) Prof. Treadwell: Louisa?—Sir.—Where are you?—In this room.—What room?—Mons. Bugard's. Nine minutes. At this time the pulse were 100 per minute. At ten minutes, Mons. B. asked how she felt, to which she replied that she was *sleepy;* she complied with his request that she should open her mouth. Dr. Harwood then extracted one of the molar teeth, (it being deciduous and decayed.) Dr. Ware perceived no change of pulse during the operation, although there was a flush over the whole face and a slight quivering of the lip, with a countenance indicative of consider-

able pain. Mons. B.: Louisa, how do you feel?—I feel the tooth.—Have they pulled a tooth for you?—Yes.—Who did it for you?—Dr. Ware.*—Why do you mention Dr. Ware?—I don't know. Fifteen minutes: pulse 96. How happened it that you did not cry, asked Mons. B., when a back tooth was removed?—I never cry on such occasions. Spits out the blood at the request of Mons. B. During all this time the patient remained apparently sound asleep. Seventeen minutes. How do you feel?—Sleepy. Nineteen minutes: Mons. B. having magnetized some water, gave it to the patient, who drank it. How do you like it? Very much.—Very much?—Yes.—How does it taste? Very good.—Better than common water?—Yes.—Do you find any particular taste in it?—No, I find it very good. Says she does not remember having drunk any water during yesterday's *seance*, it having then been given to her. Twenty-two minutes: motion of lips on irritation with a feather. Twenty-five minutes: the magnetizing of the flexors of the right arm, produced a slight flexion of the thumb and fingers. Mr. Parker clapped his hands very near her ear, when a slight action of the eyebrows and a flush of the cheeks ensued. Mons. B. played on the flageolet; Dr. Ware asked her if she heard any thing. Yes.—What?—Music. Mons. B.: Do you like it?—Yes. Dr. Ware played. Mons. B.: Do you hear any thing?—Yes.—What?—Music. Says she likes, but that it will wake her. Mons. B.: Are you weaker?—No, I think I am getting well: I think magnetism will cure me. Thirty-three minutes: lips and nose tickled without motion. Dr. Ware: Do you feel any thing?—No.—Nothing?

* Dr. Harwood entered the room after the patient was asleep, and had never been seen by or named to her.

—No. Thirty-five minutes: Mons. B.: Louisa!—Sir. —Awake, I wish you to rise. She did so immediately. Did you dance?—No.—Did you have music?—Yes. Dr. Harwood: Did you feel any thing about your mouth?—Yes.—What?—Tooth out; I know the tooth is gone, by my tongue and the blood. Dr. Lewis: Who extracted it?—Don't know; one of the doctors.—You are positive you have been asleep?—Yes.—How long do you suppose you have slept?—Don't know. Dr. Harwood: Did it hurt you a little?—Not at all. Dr. Lewis: Then you did not know any thing about it?—No. Prof. Treadwell: Did it hurt you?—No.—Did you not know when he pulled it?—No.—How do you know it is gone?—Because my mouth is bloody only when my teeth are pulled.—How do you know there is any blood?—I perceive it in my mouth.

If it be indeed true that Animal Magnetism has this powerful effect, and that it enables the patient to undergo surgical operations with so much ease, (in support of which hypothesis, vide Cloquet's operation for cancer in the breast,) the subject must be worthy the close attention of every physician, especially of every kind-hearted surgeon; and particularly since the direct exertions of the Faculty will be almost the only mode of preserving us from the invasion of myriads of ignorant knaves and impudent quacks.

BENJ. H. WEST.

Boston, June 30, 1836.

From the Christian Register, edited by Prof. Willard, of Cambridge.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—This subject has excited considerable attention among us, from a well-attested case in this city, witnessed by gentlemen whose testimony is

entitled to perfect reliance. Another case has come within my knowledge, in Cambridge, attended with circumstances similar to those which were detailed in the one to which I have alluded, and which was copied in many of our papers. The case in Cambridge is that of a female who has for several years been confined to her bed, has for a long time been subject to great pain, and frequent, distressing spasms, and has had no sleep without the constant use of opiates.

She was asked by Dr. Webster, Professor of Chemistry, &c., whether she was willing to submit to the experiment of what is called "Animal Magnetism." She readily consented, and the Dr. went through the manipulations several times, with sufficient intervals, without producing any sensible effect. At length he succeeded in composing her to sleep, such sleep as is described to result from the process performed by the magnetizer, when the magnetized becomes deaf to every voice but his, and is disturbed by no other sounds.

On Thursday evening, at five o'clock, I accompanied Dr. Webster and Dr. H. A. Dewar in their visit to the patient already mentioned. My presence was unexpected. I accidently met Dr. W. on the way. She was perfectly awake. I had not seen her for several years ; but if she did not know me when I entered the room, she readily recognized me when my name was mentioned.

Dr. W. succeeded, as he had done several times before, in putting her to sleep. He then asked her several questions, whether she felt any pain, &c., which she readily answered, not merely yes or no, but with some circumstances. To the same and to other questions, put by Dr. Dewar and myself, she was mute. Dr. W. also went to the most remote part of the room,

and into the entry, closing the door, and in whispers and low tones of voice, of which Dr. Dewar and myself could not hear a syllable, he put to her questions to which she replied. In two instances she asked, "What is that?"—but when the questions were repeated more distinctly, but still inaudibly to the other persons in the room, she replied correctly. Her sleep being disturbed by slight spasms, Dr. Dewar became the magnetizer—after which she readily recognized his voice, and replied to his questions, as well as to those of Dr. W.; but not so to mine. She was asked who came into the room with Dr. W. and Mr. D. She said Mr. Willard. Being asked by Dr. W. why she did not answer Mr. Willard's questions, she made no reply. When asked whether she did not hear Mr. W's questions, she said she heard some sound. When the physicians bade her good night, she responded, but not so to me, though I was first, and last, and loudest to utter these parting words. Such, substantially, are the facts, and here I leave the case. It is one which I never should have dreamed of in my philosophy.

EDITOR.

From the Boston Courier of Feb. 10th, 1837.

I offer the following statement, merely as a specimen of some of the experiments which I usually perform, and that have already been seen by upwards of one hundred individuals of this city.

These experiments took place on Saturday evening, 4th inst. I put Miss Gleason to the magnetic sleep towards a quarter past seven o'clock. The operation did not last more than a minute and a half. At half past seven, some company which I expected, arrived,

and found the lady on her rocking-chair, motionless, with her eyes closed, and exactly as a person delivered up to the natural sleep. Among the gentlemen present, were Dr. C. T. Jackson, Dr. H. Dewar, Messrs. Clark, H. K. Horton, Andrew Morse, Jr., well known by his ingenious and useful inventions in mechanics, Wilson Dana, a lawyer in Charlestown.

Various attempts were made to awake Miss Gleason, but without success. Dr. Jackson examined the state of her eyes, and it was found that the lids were firmly closed, and resisted very much against the efforts which were made to open them. Being thus partially opened, the eye-balls were seen turned upward, and convulsed; the white of the eye, only, could be seen.

Two gentlemen, in succession, shook her, spoke to her in a loud voice, and took her hand, but could not obtain a word from her. Then I approached and spoke to her, in a tone much lower, and she answered immediately the question I proposed to her.

Some time having elapsed in general conversation, a gentleman came to me, and asked me whether I could make the somnambulist talk with another person, and cause her to cease speaking by my will. I answered, that I thought I could.

Two handkerchiefs, folded up several times, were tied over Miss Gleason's eyes and face, down to the opening of the nostrils. It was agreed that a gentleman should stand behind the somnambulist's chair, in order to give the signal when to act. One of the gentlemen took the position, holding a pencil-case in his hand. The signals agreed upon were, that when the pencil was held horizontally, I would cause Miss Gleason to speak; when it was held vertically, I would cause her to stop speaking.

Dr. Jackson sat by Miss Gleason's right side, and I

stood about one foot and a half distant from her left side, stooping, with both my hands leaning on my knees; my mouth was about on the level with the top of Miss Gleason's head.

Dr. Jackson began to talk, but obtained no answer. The pencil was placed on the horizontal line. Dr. Jackson put some other question—then Miss Gleason turned her head towards him, and answered his questions readily. The pencil was placed vertically, immediately the somnambulist ceased speaking. The pencil was held again horizontally, and she resumed the conversation. These experiments were made four or five times in succession, and always successfully. They were pronounced satisfactory by all the gentlemen. The bandages were removed; then I said aloud to the somnambulist, "Why have you spoken with Dr. Jackson, at times?" She answered—"Because you *told me to.*" "Why did you cease to talk with him?" "Because you *told me to.*" Now, it is a fact, that I did not move my lips once. None of those who were around, watching my motions, could discover any thing of the kind; neither did I touch the somnambulist; consequently, she was influenced by my will only.

A gentleman having inquired of me whether Miss Gleason could distinguish my whispers at a distance, I answered, that I had not yet discovered any remarkable acuteness of hearing in her; that, however, I should be willing to make a trial of the kind, to satisfy the company. Dr. Jackson having written several short sentences on bits of paper, handed me one, and told me to place myself behind the somnambulist, at seven or eight feet distant. I took the position, and whispered, very low, this command—"Lift up your right hand," which was written on the paper. The whisper was so very low that no one could hear what

I said. Miss Gleason immediately moved her hands towards her stomach, and shook her head negatively. It was evident that she had heard my voice, but she did not execute the required motion, and the experiment was not considered satisfactory.

Another bit of paper was handed to me, with these words—"Will her to open her lids." I stood behind her, with both my hands thrust into my coat pockets. Dr. Dewar stood also near by me, in order to make it more evident that there was no collusion. I then directed my attention upon Miss Gleason's eye-lids, without moving, without speaking, and taking care not to breathe too heavily. At first she moved her right hand; soon after she raised her lids, and kept them so, wide open, and perfectly motionless. A gentleman took a lamp, and brought it suddenly, and several times in succession, near the eyes; no apparent motion of the muscles was produced; yet the pupil contracted a little, but a great deal less than it does in the natural state. Another passed rapidly his fingers near the face and the eyes of the somnambulist, but without causing any impression on her. Then I stood behind, and, at a signal given to me by Mr. Clark, I caused the lids to shut again, simply by my will.

Some moments after this, Miss Gleason called me, and begged for some water. A tumbler was brought in; Dr. Jackson took it, and presented it to the somnambulist, even pressed it against her lips, but she took no notice of it. The tumbler was handed to me; I presented it to Miss Gleason, at some distance from her face, without speaking a word; then she stretched out her hand, grasped it, and drank part of the water. Dr. Dewar presented his hand to receive the tumbler; the somnambulist took no notice of him; he then took hold of the glass, and made considerable efforts to pull it,

by force, from Miss Gleason's hand, but she resisted so strongly, that the gentleman was obliged to leave it off, for fear that she would break it, and hurt her fingers. Then I presented my hand, and willed her to give me the tumbler; she first put it to her lips, drank again two or three swallows, and *gave it back to me.*

These experiments, as well as the preceding, were declared satisfactory. Another bit of paper was handed to me, with these words written on it,—"Ask her, in a low whisper, how long since she has been in Boston." I stood at about ten feet distant, and put the question to her. She answered "I don't know." This experiment was not found clear enough. Then I advanced one step forward, and asked her, "When do you intend returning to Pawtucket?" which was written on another piece of paper. The whisper was still lower than the preceding; it was hardly possible to distinguish any sound. Miss Gleason said, "Speak louder." I repeated the question in the same tone of voice. She shook her head, and said, "I don't understand you." Thus she heard the sound of my whisper, but could not distinguish what I said.

A few moments having elapsed, I requested her to move from the rocking-chair, and sit on another chair, placed at about 12 feet distance. She got up, walked with a firm step, her eyes being perfectly closed, and sat on the chair which I presented to her.

Then Dr. Dewar told me, in a very low voice, that he was going to tickle her with a feather, and that I should cause her alternately to feel, and cease feeling, "by my will."

A bandage was set over her eyes. Mr. Clark stood behind her, with a pencil-case in his hand, in order to give the signal agreed upon. The first signal given, was, "not to feel." The feather was carried along her

lips and nostrils; no effect was produced. The pencil-case, then, was placed in the vertical position, which indicated that I should cause the somnambulist to feel. Immediately she began to move her lips, raised her hands, and brushed the feather off. The contrary signal was given again, and she became as insensible as before. This experiment was declared satisfactory.

At my suggestion, a gentleman said that he should like to submit himself to the examination of the somnambulist, for the state of his health. In consequence, he seated himself by her, she took hold of his arm, and touched the pulse. After expressing herself about the state of the pulse, she added, "I don't think that this gentleman is very sick; I don't see any thing much out of order in him." "Look at me internally." "I was doing so." "How is my stomach?" "Pretty good; nothing ails it." "What is the size of my stomach—large?" Then she indicated with her hand the size and shape of the organ. "How does it look? what is its color?" "Red." "Is it very red?" "Not very; about like a blush-rose." "Look at the intestine, next to the stomach." "It is well." "How does it look internally—is it smooth or rough?" "It is rather rough; I see wrinkles, and a great many small edges, *as in a grater.*" (This description of the intestine *duodenum*, coming from a person so entirely ignorant of anatomy, is certainly striking. Is it possible to use a more happy comparison, than that borrowed of a grater, to express the appearance of the numerous asperities, or villosities, that exist on the internal coat of the intestine?) "How are my lungs?" "They are sound; yet I see in them two or three small pipes, filled up with a *frothy, white, yellowish* matter, that ought to make you cough sometimes." "It is so in almost every body." "Oh, not in every body who is well." "How is my heart?"

"Large." "How much does it weigh?" "I should think one pound." "Look at my liver; how is it?" "Your liver is dark-colored; it is darker than it ought to be; but I don't see any thing out of order in it, except *three or four white spots, like water blisters.*" "Are you sure of that?" "Certain; I see it." "I believe you are mistaken." "No, you may depend on my word; as there is a God in heaven, those white spots are on your liver." "On which part of the organ?" "On the lower edge; you must look out for that." "Why?" "Because they will keep spreading all around, if you don't take care." (Those white spots, mentioned by the somnambulist, are similar to those occasioned by the existence of *Kystes hydatides* in the liver. This singular complaint has been the object of the researches of several authors, as Rudolphi, Laennec, and particularly of Professor Cruveilheir, in his '*Essai d'Anatomie Pathologique.*') The gentleman made some inquiries more, about his blood, &c.; but the somnambulist declared that she was very much fatigued. Then the gentleman got up, and said that he had been affected with a disease of the liver, some time past, but was getting rid of it.

This examination being finished, I announced that I was going to awake Miss Gleason. I approached her, and laying my hand on her forehead, I said, "You will awake in six minutes exactly." "I feel very much fatigued," said she, "but I will try to awake, as you want me to." Then I observed to the company, that I had noticed, on several occasions, that Miss Gleason could not "keep so good time, when her mind was fatigued, as when it felt easy and clear." Then I retired the length of about eight feet, and taking Dr. Jackson apart, I asked him, in his ear, to let me know which arm he wished that I should strike with palsy.

"The left," said he. Then, while a gentleman was holding a sheet of paper before the somnambulist's face, in order to prevent her seeing, (supposing that she *should feign*, which cannot be reasonably admitted, after so many trials,) I passed my hand two or three times over her left arm, from the shoulder down to the hand, and at the distance of several inches. First, a sudden convulsive motion of the head, neck, and chest, was manifested,—exactly like the effect produced by a shock of electricity. Soon after the left arm was seized with the same convulsion, and fell on the somnambulist's knees, insensible and motionless.

According to what I had announced, Miss Gleason awoke in a wrong time, viz. about two minutes after the prescribed time. She preserved no recollection of any kind of what had transpired. Dr. Jackson approached, and, in order to ascertain whether the left arm was really palsied, he passed his fingers, suddenly, and without speaking a word about it, towards the elbow, and pressed upon the *Cubital* nerve, in its passage along the head of the Cubitus bone. Every body knows how exceedingly sensitive this part is. Yet Miss Gleason gave no sign of sensibility. She was also pinched on her hand several times, and felt no sensation. The arm was lifted up and let drop suddenly; it fell down like a piece of wood. Several ladies and gentlemen were around Miss Gleason, in conversation with her. Without mentioning it, I passed slowly behind her, made a sign to Drs. Jackson and Dewar, and in about one minute restored the arm, simply by pointing my fingers toward the shoulder, without touching it. This last experiment was considered to be the most surprising of all.

I have presented the statement with all the simplicity and honesty of which I am capable. If the reader

entertains the least doubt about it, I will beg to refer him to the gentlemen whom I have mentioned. I am authorized to name Dr. C. T. Jackson, Henry A. Dewar, Messrs. Andrew Morse, Jr., ——Bascom, G. W. Wilson, H. K. Horton. They are ready to certify that the experiments, which I have mentioned as satisfactory, were really so ; and that it was not possible for them to detect the least collusion.

CHARLES POYEN.

In reference to the above statement, the editor of the Courier says, in his paper of February 16, 1837, "Dr. Dewar, one of the medical gentlemen therein named, has favored us with an interview, and confirms the statement made by Mr. Poyen. Want of time is his apology for not writing; but he authorized us to say, that Mr. Poyen might have presented a statement much stronger in his own favor. Dr. Dewar was acquainted with Mr. Poyen in Paris, and, altogether, has known him about six years. He believes him to be a perfectly honest man, and one who would not countenance an imposition on the public—much less would he participate in such an imposition. He has himself operated on several patients, and similar effects have always been produced. Several other physicians of the city, he states, have performed the operation, and similar phenomena have almost invariably followed. We will not undertake to relate the entire conversation, nor to detail the surprising and incredible actions of persons during the magnetic sleep, which Dr. Dewar related, and which he unquestionably believes to be produced by the magnetic influence—though the *why* and the *wherefore* he does not attempt to explain, nor profess to have discovered."

We extract the following paragraph, concerning the same statement, from a letter written by Doct. C. T. Jackson, to the editor of the Courier, and inserted in the same number of that Journal.

"The statements made by Mr. Poyen, in your paper of the 10th, are, in the main, correct, so far as the experimental trials were made; and we could *not detect* any way in which he could communicate with the patient, in the case of the signals with the pencil-case since I double-banded her eyes, and not a word was spoken. When she opened her eyes, by another signal, they had a glassy appearance, which I hardly think could be counterfeited. Her pulse was eighty in a minute, while, had she been under the influence of opium, it would, probably, have been slower. Her sudden recovery, and natural appearance when awake, is also against the idea of the sleep having been produced by opium. The apparent paralytic state of the arm was too well done to have been counterfeited, unless, indeed, she is a most accomplished actress. We may, however, suppose almost anything, although we can prove nothing but the apparent facts. I regret that want of time prevents my entering critically into the examination of this case. You can, however, obtain more light from my medical brethren in Boston.

CHARLES T. JACKSON."

The following short communication, extracted from the Boston Recorder of Feb. 17th, 1837, is from the pen of Mr. J. W. Jenks, Jr., the intelligent and talented son of the Rev. Dr. W. Jenks, of Boston.

"It was left, though the facts have been before the world hundreds of years, for Dr. *Poyen* to prove to *this* community, that a state of mimic death, and of somnambulism, could, under certain circumstances, be *pro-*

duced on one person by another. Whoever has seen his experiments *must* acknowledge this phenomenon; and neither jealousy, self-conceit, or indifference can rob Dr. P. of the honor of having demonstrated this in the face of ridicule, from some to whom the community is ready to look for opinions.

"Many have seen a state of insensibility to external objects produced by the magnetizer, in the magnetizee, in circumstances where the common notions included under those mysterious phrases, 'nervous influence,' or 'imagination,' will not explain the phenomena. *This is new* to our current metaphysics.

"We have seen all communication cut off to the magnetizee, with any other persons than himself, or such as he chooses to place in the charmed circle. What materialist, or spiritualist has explained *this* in our schools? We must thank Dr. P. for revealing it to us.

"Further, and more strange to our experience, while the eyes of the magnetizee continue *closely* shut, (the experiments have been tried too with bandaged eyes,) and while no *gesture* or *sound* is used, and at the distance of several paces, I saw the magnetizer ask the magnetizee a question, (suggested on the spot, and secretly, by a bystander,) and heard the magnetizee answer audibly and correctly. Men of the highest character in our city were present, and can attest this; nay, declared it to be unaccountable. Since I saw this, I understand such experiments have been repeated, with even more signal success; Mr. D. Greene, of Providence, states in the Boston Courier, that he produces the same unexampled results.

"I leave to medical men the *medical tact*, and its use, which they have seen displayed by the magnetizee, and *only* during this strange state. But, in view of the facts

above, and they are said to be but elementary in magnetic somnambulism, how disgusting is the tone some journals assume towards Dr. P., and how vulgar their abuse! Since I have known him, he has sustained a high intellectual and moral character; and the object of these few remarks is to induce those of like character to unite with him in classifying these phenomena, fixing their relations to the great body of science, and following out and popularizing their medical and psychological uses.

"In answer to some objections in a religious paper of Portland, it is sufficient now to say, that it is on record that the eminent French physician, Georget, was converted from Materialism to Christianity, by the facts in Animal Magnetism developed under his practice. And when we thus see the power of mind over matter, as it were tangibly demonstrated, will it not tend to confirm our faith in the spirituality and immortality of our nature, and encourage us to renewed efforts to live up to its transcendent powers?" J. W. J.

Cambridgeport, October 28th, 1837.

DEAR SIR—Agreeably to your request, I very cheerfully present you a brief statement of the phenomena that have fallen under my own observation from experiments made in Animal Magnetism. However mysterious the cause may be, the phenomena are certainly worthy of candid attention; and whilst it becomes physicians to investigate the subject with an almost scrupulous severity, they ought, also, to proclaim fearlessly the results of their investigations, at least so far as those results may, in any way, be connected with their profession.

A few months since, I read the Report of the Academy of Medicine on the subject, and soon after made a few experiments, in order to satisfy myself, more fully, whether such phenomena would naturally result from the agency described in that work. With the first subject of these experiments I met with partial success, and the second was put into the magnetic sleep with little effort. Yet, in this case, though the sleep seemed to be sound, and the patient nearly or quite insensible to impressions made by others, whenever I conversed much with her, she would awake. I have tried its influence upon 15 or 20 persons. Of these some were males and some females, some children, and some adults. Children I have found more easily magnetized than adults. A little boy was put into a sound sleep in a very short time, at the first sitting. A volume might be written describing the various phenomena exhibited by all. With some I have succeeded only partially, with others entirely, whilst upon others I could produce little or no effect. Three have become somnambulists, and others doubtless would readily become so, were the experiments with them to be continued. To one of these, Mrs. M. of this place, my attention has been more especially directed, because of the favorable influence magnetism has seemed to produce upon her health. She exhibits the various phenomena common to somnambulists.

1st. She usually seems perfectly insensible to external impressions unless they proceed from myself.

2d. If I reach my hand towards her from behind, she almost invariably perceives it, and seems to feel it at the distance of several feet.

3d. She seems to know my *wish* or "*will.*" If I *will* her to notice others, she notices them, and answers their questions without the slightest motion of mine, or

intimation to her in any other way than through the influence of the mind.

4th. She seems to know my feelings, and frequently tells me of them.

5th. She has told correctly what articles were placed over her head, when she was blinded, though they were brought from behind her with great care, and I did not know what they were till she told: I purposely avoided seeing them, that I might not inform her *mentally*. She has told the time correctly, when there was no clock in the room, nor watch, but one in my pocket, and said she could see the face of the clock in the room below. She has told correctly what I was doing in another part of the house, with two close partitions between, though engaged in a very uncommon employment, and which when awake, she could have had no means of ascertaining.

6th. If I tell her to wake at a certain time, and go to sleep again after so many minutes, she does so; though, when awake, she has no knowledge of the appointment to sleep again, and sometimes finds herself overcome by sleep while standing up, and engaged in some employment.

7th. Though subject to impressions made by the will, she does not necessarily obey those impressions, but has the same power to refuse to fulfil the request, as when awake. Ideas may be communicated to her through the will, but obedience cannot be enforced.

8th. I can paralyze her arm and hand, so that she is unable to make the least motion whatever with it, but her hand is firmly clenched; and on restoring it to the natural state, she complains of a prickling sensation as of a limb "waking from sleep." I can produce this effect without putting her into the magnetic sleep.

This lady has in my opinion, as well as her own, and

that of her husband, been greatly benefited by the use of magnetism as a remedy. *Formerly* she was unable to obtain scarcely any quiet rest; *now* her rest is calm and undisturbed. She was the subject of most excruciating pains; *now* her attacks are few, and easily relieved. I have two or three times relieved her of violent pain in the head, and a general febrile excitement, produced by a cold, by magnetizing. Also a tight cough, with pleuritic pains in the chest, has yielded to its influence. Her strength is increased, and her general health is improved. I have made use of magnetism in other cases with advantage; several times I entirely relieved the pain of a bad sprain, for 24 or 48 hours.

Finally, from the most careful observations I have been able to make, during the last six or eight months, I have no doubt that Animal Magnetism is a remedial agent of great value in the treatment of a lage class of distressing and obstinate diseases. You are at perfect liberty to make such use of this statement of facts as as you may think proper. My opinion is not formed from a partial investigation of a few of the phenomena, but from a patient examination of facts which have come under my own immediate observation, and which cannot be otherwise than true. How far ignorance may prevail over facts, or whether credulity may even be gulled by apparent phenomena, the result of fraud, but not of magnetism, it is not my province here to inquire. "*Magna est veritas et prevalabit*" is with me a sufficient argument for giving publicity to these statements.

Very respectfully, Yours, &c.

SAMUEL A. TOOTHAKER, M. D.

Boston, Oct. 21, 1837.

MONS. CH. POYEN,—

Dear Sir—Agreeably to your wish, I will briefly state to the public, through the volume you are now preparing for the press, the results which I have been able to obtain in my practice of Animal Magnetism. The subject is so wonderful in itself, so different from all received notions, that it will probably require the labors of many years to establish its truth on a wide and useful basis! but as it is, in my mind, a matter of importance to society, I believe it the duty of all those who have already satisfied themselves of its reality, fearlessly to come forth, and tell to the world what they have observed. In thus perseveringly uniting their exertions, with the view of removing prejudices, and enlightening the public mind about Animal Magnetism, they will, doubtless, succeed in raising it to the same rank in this country as it now occupies in several parts of Europe, among useful practices, and other interesting subjects of philosophical inquiries. I now come to the facts. I began to feel an interest in Animal Magnetism several months ago, on account of some unexpected effects which I happened, *by mere chance*, to produce on a person who was then afflicted with severe rheumatic pains, in her left shoulder and knees. These pains were so excruciating that the person could neither walk nor sleep without the assistance of opiates. I proposed to rub her diseased parts with my hands, to which she readily consented. Although I passed my hand very slightly on the parts, yet, in a short time, I succeeded in producing a remarkable relief, and the patient slept better on the night following! It is true that I had no idea of magnetizing her, but yet I per-

formed the operation with the "*requisites*," prescribed by magnetizers, viz. *a sincere desire, and a strong intention of alleviating the pain.* From that moment my attention was turned to what is called Animal Magnetism! I operated again, several times in succession, on the same person, and produced still more effects. She went into a profound magnetic sleep, and obtained so great a relief from the usual pains that she could walk and rest comfortably. These first trials induced me to repeat them on other individuals. I have magnetized eight or nine different ones, of both sexes, and succeeded in producing well-marked effects on six. Out of these, two are gentlemen, one of whom was put into a complete magnetic sleep, from which no trial whatever could arouse him! But, when I stood at 10 or 12 feet from him, and pronounced his name in a rather low voice, *with the intention of awaking him*, he opened his eyes and rose from his chair. The other gentleman was so far affected that, although he was not asleep, yet he was compelled to shut his eyes, and could not open them with the best of his effort; his countenance, also, altered so much while under the influence, that those who were present said he was not the same man. Having made a few passes before his face, to dispel the influence, he opened his eyes and recovered, almost instantly, his natural look!

The other four persons that I have succeeded in throwing into the magnetic state, are ladies. One of them was affected with the most painful *tic douloureux* in her face, and was almost deprived of sleep in consequence of the pain. Although she was entirely faithless, in regard to Animal Magnetism, I succeeded in putting her to a profound sleep, and so great was the magnetic action, on her nervous system, that the pain, which was violent when I commenced, was removed almost immedi-

ately, and did not return for some time. Another of my patients was subject, for several months, to a very troublesome spasmodic cough, which prevented both herself and those who were in the adjoining rooms from sleeping. From the very first attempts, I succeeded in composing her to a complete magnetic slumber, from which it was impossible, by any noise or shaking, tickling, pricking, &c., to awake her. She was carried to her chamber, undressed, and laid on the bed, still fast in the magnetic sleep. She had a perfect night's rest, without coughing once.* I have magnetized another lady, several times, and with an increasing success at each operation. I acquired such a power over her, that I have been able, a number of times, to put her asleep at the distance of several feet, merely by looking at her.

I regret, sir, that my numerous professional engagements do not permit me to give you more details concerning these cases. I feel that a few more explicit and minute particulars would make this statement much more interesting; but still, I have said enough to prove to any sensible person that Animal Magnetism is not all a deception, and not a matter to be trifled with.

In addition to what precedes, I will state, that the external feeling has always been, more or less, completely annihilated, in my magnetic patients, while under the influence! *I do not believe that they could have been aroused by any means whatever.* They also appeared insensible to the voice of other people, besides myself; but from the moment I spoke to them, even in a low voice, they either tried to respond, or answered distinctly, my question! Still further, one of them showed, by her gesture and anxiety, that she was aware

* It is worthy of notice, that when the lady was first magnetized, she was entirely ignorant of the subject, and did not know what I was doing to her.

even of my presence by her bed-side, while she did not notice other people.

It is very easy to deny the reality of Animal Magnetism on the ground that the magnetized person might have feigned the whole, or have deceived their magnetizer! Yet, I will affirm, *in the most positive manner*, that if the magnetic phenomena have ever been the result of deception, it has not been in the case of any of my patients. They are persons of a well-known, irreproachable character. They generally stand in the first rank of society, and are wholly incapable, by their education, and previous habits of mind, of attempting any thing like deception or feigning, of any kind. The idea that such persons have willingly and repeatedly submitted themselves to these experiments, and pretended to be relieved or cured of the excruciating pains with which they were affected, merely for the purpose of playing a trick upon their magnetizer and friends, is so perfectly absurd, that I need not to make a serious refutation of it.

You are at liberty, my dear sir, to dispose of this letter for the best interests of Animal Magnetism, and yourself. Very respectfully yours,

FRANCIS DANA, M. D.

No. 34, *Tremont Row.*

Certificate of the Officers of the Boston Hanover Lyceum.

"Considering the excitement which Animal Magnetism has, of late, created through the country, and the state of doubt which generally exists in regard both to the subject itself, and the character of Dr. CHARLES POYEN, the subscribers think it due to the cause of jus-

tice, to declare that they have attended a course of lectures delivered by him before the Hanover Lyceum, (in Boston,) and that they have derived much gratification and instruction from the able manner in which this subject was then treated by him. They believe, so far as it is possible to judge of a man from his ideas and language, that Dr. Poyen is a gentleman of education and learning; that the love of truth, and the desire of improving the human species, which he has manifested in his lectures, are much in his favor.

The subscribers, therefore, think that it would be but just and rational to abstain from pronouncing any judgment on so new and intricate a subject as that of Animal Magnetism, and forming an unfavorable opinion towards the lecturer, until after making a fair and unprejudiced inquiry into the matter, by attending a comprehensive course of lectures on it and some of the experiments intended to demonstrate the reality of the alleged phenomena.

NATHAN GURNEY,
EBEN'R. SMITH, jr.
EZRA PALMER, jr. M. D.
TH. HOLLIS,
NATHAN CARUTH,
} *Officers of the Hanover Lyceum.*

SECTION III.

Providence and Vicinity.

Among the numerous cases of somnambulism, which have occurred in Providence and Pawtucket, we are able to present the few following, the particulars of which were communicated to us by highly respectable gentlemen. The three first statements had been already published by me in the Boston Courier, from which I now extract them.

February 1*st*, 1837.

The subscriber having attended Dr. Ch. Poyen's lectures on Animal Magnetism, in this city, resolved to make a trial himself, to produce, if it were possible, the pretended phenomena. In consequence, he magnetized several individuals, of both sexes; and he *certifies* that he has succeeded in obtaining a well-established case of the singular physiological state, called magnetic somnambulism. The person who exhibited these phenomena, is a young gentleman of about twenty years of age, a fellow-boarder of the subscriber. He is not sick, and even never was so, in a serious manner, although slender, and of a constitution naturally feeble. This gentleman, it is perhaps superfluous to state, has no personal interest in Animal Magnetism; he submitted himself to the operation only to satisfy his own curiosity, and comply with our de-

sires. The length of time necessary to put Mr. W. into the magnetic sleep, decreased from twenty down to five minuets. This sleep was characterized by the following symptoms, or phenomena:—1st. The complete closing of the eyelids, in such a manner that it was necessary to use force to effect their opening, with the fingers; being thus partially opened, the eye-balls were seen turned upwards, and convulsed; it was possible to see the white of the eye only. 2d. The complete suspension of the external senses. Mr. W. was insensible to any impression whatever, exercised on his senses of hearing, smell and feeling, as is generally the case in somnambulists. 3d. Mr. W. could hear and answer nobody but me. 4th. His will appeared to be subjected, to a certain extent, to mine; for instance, I could, without speaking a word, cause him to open his lids without waking from the magnetic sleep, and shut them again, merely by *willing it*, and looking at him on purpose. I could, also, cause him to move his arm forward, and shake hands with me, speak with another person, and cease the conversation. One evening, in presence of Dr. Poyen, I willed him to give me his hand. Immediately he moved his arm forward. I asked him why he did so? He answered—"If I understood you right, you wanted me to give you my hand." 5th. During his sleep, Mr. W. seemed to be conscious of certain things that were transpiring around him, although his eyes were perfectly closed; for instance, he could name, without mistaking, a number of times in succession, the individuals who were coming in or going out.

I usually awoke Mr. W. simply by waving my arms, at some distance from his face. He felt, after awaking, at the three first operations, a considerable degree of uneasiness, and dulness; but, having magnetized him

according to certain directions received from Dr. Poyen, there was no longer any bad feeling after awaking. Mr. W. preserved no recollection of what had transpired during the state of somnambulism. This case has been witnessed by a large number of persons, who all appeared convinced of the reality of the phenomena.

W. T. Esten,
Surgeon Dentist, Westminster St.

The following statement was communicated to me by Dr. G. Capron, of Providence, and inserted in the Boston Courier of February 25, 1837. Dr. Capron is much esteemed in Providence for his professional abilities and moral qualities. The earnestness with which he has undertaken the investigation of Animal Magnetism, and the independence of mind with which he now comes forward and states the result he has obtained, are worthy of being imitated, and deserve the highest praise.

"The subscriber, having been induced, by attending Mr. Poyen's lectures, and the very great degree of excitement that has existed upon the subject, to make a series of experiments in Animal Magnetism, considers it a duty, in order to promote the investigation of so mysterious and important a subject, to state that, among the cases he has magnetized, he has produced one '*undoubted case of somnambulism.*'

"The young lady who was the subject of this very curious affection, has, for a number of years, been a patient of the subscriber, and, at the time of the experiments, was a resident in his family. An intimate acquaintance with her for several years, enables him to

say, without fear of contradiction, that she is a young lady whose modesty and invariable regard to truth would render her wholly incapable of any attempts to deceive, even supposing she could have any interest in so doing—which cannot be the fact, as she is very reluctant to have her name known before the public as a somnambulist. The disease of this patient has been so completely anomalous, that any attempt to state what it has been would be fruitless, except by a tedious and particular description of symptoms. It is sufficient for the present purpose to say, that when these experiments were commenced, she was subject to frequent attacks of a very singular nervous affection, which deprived her not only of her reason, but almost of consciousness, for a number of hours. When in this state, her appearance resembled, more than any thing else, those of a person laboring under compression of the brain, from dropsy of that organ. This distressing affection will frequently return periodically, several days in succession, commencing in the early part of the evening, and lasting until about eleven o'clock, when it passes off, and she appears like a person awaking from sleep. Sometimes, however, her head appears to be entirely free from complaint, and her left side is affected with the most severe spasmodic pains; and, at other times, instead of these affections, she is affected with incessant cough, which, as well as the pain in the side, observes, with the greatest precision, the same periods as the disorder of the head. For these, and those, and numberless other complaints she has had, within the last four years, a great number of remedies have been prescribed, but with little benefit, except that she has always received temporally from bleeding. The first time I magnetized her, it was done from mere curiosity, when she was entirely deprived of

her reason, and, apparently, of consciousness of what was passing. I made but few passes, confining my hands principally upon the forehead, and avoiding such motions as might disturb her, in case she had any degree of consciousness remaining. The effects were almost instantaneous, so much so indeed as to astonish me very much; some phenomena being produced which I was, by no means, expecting to witness. She immediately became extremely uneasy, appearing to suffer great pain, especially wherever I put my hands. Not only did she appear to feel pain when my hand was in actual contact with hers, but when it was only in approximation to any part of her body or limbs she had frequent painful spasmodic actions of the muscles of the part. If, for instance, I put my hand upon her head, she would throw it from me with violence, and as I passed it down before her eyes, she would start back, as though a ball of fire had passed near them. Her hands and feet were invariably withdrawn, and generally with a spasmodic action, when I held my hands near them—when, too, it was done in such a manner that it was impossible for her to see, or in any way know, except through the agency of feeling.

"But, what most astonished me, was the effect produced by my putting my hand to the pit of the stomach —this gave her great distress. Her breathing became hurried and laborious, and she frequently would groan aloud. As soon, however, as my hand was removed these symptoms would disappear, and her breathing would again become calm as before. No material change was produced in her complaints at this time. The following night the cough came on, unattended by pain, or any affection of the head, and I determined to magnetize her more effectually; to put her to sleep, if possible, and ascertain what influence it might have

upon her malady. As soon as I commenced the ordinary manipulations, she began to be distressed in the same manner as she had been the evening preceding. Her distress and uneasiness increased for about eight or ten minutes, when her cough began to subside, and her breathing to grow less laborious; in two or three minutes more the cough ceased entirely, she became perfectly calm; and, in fifteen or eighteen minutes from the commencement, she was asleep. I was, at this time, obliged to leave her before she was sound asleep, and she awoke soon after spontaneously. Had the manipulations been continued, the sleep, no doubt, would have been much more profound. From this sleep, however, she awoke unusually cheerful, and we had hopes that some good would result. The cough did not return again that night. After she had been awake about an hour, I again put her to sleep, in presence of half a dozen ladies of her acquaintance. It required only a few minutes to produce what appeared to be the most profound sleep. While in this state, a number of somnambulic phenomena were elicited. It was impossible for any person, except myself, to attract her attention in the least. But, to the lowest word from me, she would respond with as much readiness as though she had been awake. Many attempts were made by those present, in various ways, to awake her, but without making the least impression upon her. I asked her several questions respecting her feelings, all of which she answered, either by signs, or in a low voice. It at first appeared to be difficult for her to speak, but afterwards she spoke distinctly. A considerable variety of experiments were made to ascertain whether she really was conscious of the presence of my hands, when held over and in near approximation to any part of her body or limbs, as was the case the preceding

evening. In order that these experiments should be entirely satisfactory, she was blindfolded, in such a manner that it was impossible for her to see, and the experiments were made with so much caution, that there was no possible means of her knowing where my hand was, except through the medium of feeling. It was also ascertained, beyond a doubt, that she was conscious of my presence or absence from the room. To prove this, she being still blindfolded, I would pass out of the room with great caution, and, after being absent some time, would return without my boots, so still that it was impossible for any person to hear me. As soon as I arrived at the bedside, and fixed my eyes upon her, with a wish that she would open her eyes, she would show signs of recognition, and, on removing the handkerchief, her eyes would be found fixed upon me. She was asked, if she knew when I was in the room, or out of it. She said she did. I then asked her if she saw or heard me; to which she answered, that she did not. Upon pursuing the inquiry further, she said she was sensible of my presence or absence by her feelings. After fully satisfying myself, and all present, that she really was in a state of somnambulism, and she appearing somewhat fatigued, I awoke her, fearing her situation to be rather distressing than refreshing. Immediately after awaking, she was considerably distressed, and had rather an uncomfortable night. The following evening, she was again magnetized, in the presence of several physicians. The cough, this evening, which had been incessant an hour, and would, almost certainly, have continued four or five hours longer, was entirely relieved in less than two minutes, and, in about ten minutes, she was sound asleep. She had been promised that there should not be many experiments made this evening, which I felt

myself bound to observe; but, notwithstanding only a few trials were made to test her somnambulic powers, I presume there was no one present who doubted, in the least, that decided effects were produced, or that she was in a state of somnambulism, however differently the phenomena might be accounted for.

"Since the evening above alluded to, she has several times been magnetized, and once was put to sleep in fifteen minutes, by looking at her from the distance of ten feet. As this magnetic state has always been attended by some degree of distress, and is followed with much fatigue, experiments have not been multiplied; neither has she been kept in that state any considerable length of time. On one occasion, however, after putting her to sleep, I told her to visit her family in the country, which she did, and when she awoke it appeared to her like a reality. She described the particular situation of three out of four of the members of the family. It is worthy of remark, that it afterwards proved that the one which she did not seem to see, was absent from home, though she had no knowledge of this fact. Whether she was correct with respect to the other members of the family or not, has not been ascertained. The writer, himself, puts no confidence in this vision, believing it to be a mere dream, excited by the impression made upon the mind by command of the magnetizer, in the same manner that dreams are produced in ordinary sleep, by whatever affects the senses sufficiently to make an impression upon the brain. She drank water this evening, which she was told was cordial, and, after she awoke, she thought she had drank cordial, though she had no recollection of being told what it was, neither did she remember being told to visit her friends. After she was sound asleep, she was told to sleep until nine o'clock. I was under the ne-

cessity of leaving her about an hour—during my absence, many attempts were made to awake her, by different persons, but without attracting the least notice from her. On my return, a few minutes before nine, she being still asleep, I was importuned to arouse her, and make some experiments, to which I reluctantly consented. The instant I addressed her, her eyes flew open, as though springs were attached to them, and she partially awoke. Her reluctance to remain longer in that state, she being very much fatigued, prevented me from again closing her eyes; notwithstanding my curiosity to witness the result of the experiment. As, however, she well knew the time at which she was to awake—at the same time, that she did not know the manner in which she knew it, not remembering that she had been told to awake at that time—perhaps I shall not be considered over credulous in believing that she would have observed the time precisely.

"Respecting the effects produced upon this young lady's case, it is but candid to remark, that, although the success of the second experiments was very great, and led us to hope that much benefit would result from it, and although her cough has always been temporally relieved, and, perhaps, I may add, some other symptoms mitigated, she did not, upon the whole, derive any decided advantage from Magnetism.

"By a reference to the above case, it will be observed, firstly, that her sense of feeling, as well perhaps as her other senses, with reference to the magnetizer, was very much exalted, so much so, indeed, as to be sensible of the presence of his hand at the distance of several inches, and of his person at the distance of some feet. Secondly, that she was unconscious of the presence of any other person than his—or sound, than his voice; of course, her senses of feeling, seeing, and

hearing, with reference to others, must have been, in a great degree, paralyzed. Thirdly, it will be observed, that she remembered nothing that transpired while in a state of somnambulism, but what he wished her to remember. And, fourthly, that her taste was obedient to his command.

"Although the above case is by no means as remarkable as some that have already been published, and is not pretended to be sufficient to establish the existence of a peculiar agent, called Animal Magnetism, it is hoped, that when added to those already before the public, it will help to excite and keep up a spirit of inquiry, and that the existence of such a principle will not be held a delusion, until it has undergone a full and impartial investigation.

GEORGE CAPRON, M. D."

Since writing this account of his first case of somnambulism, Dr. Capron has continued the practice of Animal Magnetism, with success! Every one has heard and read about the wonderful powers of Miss Backett, a blind girl, who has been for some time under Dr. C.'s care. We refer the reader to the notes placed at the end of the second part of Deleuze's "*Practical Instruction*," translated by Mr. Thos. C. Hartshorn: there he will find a long and interesting communication from Dr. Capron's pen.

Pawtucket, January 28th, 1837.

This is to certify, that, having been induced, after a conversation with Mr. Charles Poyen, on the subject of Animal Magnetism, to make a trial for myself, I magnetized Miss Mary J**, of this village, according to the mental and manual proceedings taught by Dr. Poyen in

his lectures, and succeeded in producing the magnetic sleep at the third operation, and an evident state of somnambulism at the fourth. Miss Mary J** has been an invalid for several years; her complaint is of a nervous character, which it would be, perhaps, superfluous to describe here, in all its symptoms. I must state, however, that Miss Mary J** was much troubled with want of sleep, and was affected with such a weakness of the muscles, that it was impossible for her to move from one place to another, without the assistance of two or three of her friends. The length of time necessary to produce the magnetic sleep, diminished, in this case, from thirty, to four minutes. Even I have repeatedly determined this sleep within a few moments, simply by looking at the patient steadily, and moving my hand slowly from upward, downward, at the distance of several feet from her. The suspension of the external senses did not appear to be so complete in this case as in many others. Miss Mary J** could at times hear other persons besides me, but was never able to answer them from her own impulse. Her sense of feeling appeared to be completely annihilated, only after ten or twelve operations; her eye lids, from the moment they were shut after the magnetic influence, remained in a constant state of spasmodic agitation; which, however, I caused to cease, in a great measure, by passing my hands over them with the view of producing a calm. I have not noticed that the eye-balls were apparently turned upwards, and convulsed, as in most cases; yet, though the magnetic sleep did not seem to be as profound in this case as in others, the patient was influenced by my will, and felt my wishes in a surprising manner;—as it is exemplified in the following phenomena. In order that Miss Mary could not know

my meaning, otherwise than through the magnetic influence, I took the care of blindfolding her.

1st. Standing at some distance from her, I willed her to answer another person, and she would, immediately begin to converse with this person : I willed her to cease, and she would cease instantly.

2d. Holding a few raisins, or fruit in my closed hand, I willed her to stretch hers to take the object, and she would immediately stretch her hand. On asking her why she did so, she would answer, "Because you want me to take some raisins of you," &c.

3d. While she was carrying her hand to her mouth, I willed her to give me back the raisins, and she did so. While she was eating, I willed that her jaws should become stiff, and that she would stop eating; and the desired effect was produced almost instantly.

4th. I repeatedly altered for her, by my will, the taste of several things; for instance, I made it alternately, bitter, sour, sweet.

5th. I willed her to take hold of my hand, and apply it to her sick side, and she executed my command; on asking her what she was doing, she answered, "You want me to show you my weak side."

6th. I willed her to open her lids without waking, and the lids were immediately opened. They would shut again at my mental command.

These phenomena and many others, which it is useless to detail here, have been often produced by me, and I have the strongest evidence of their reality. It will be sufficient to say, that I have no other interest in Animal Magnetism, than that of gratifying my curiosity, and of improving the health of a diseased person. As to this latter point, I certify that I have succeeded, as much as I could expect, for Miss Mary's health is much better since she has been magnetized. She rests bet-

ter, and she is already strong enough to walk around her room, by sustaining herself with her arm on the shoulder of another person. I usually awake her by waving my hand at some distance from her face. At times she preserves a faint recollection of certain things that have transpired during the state of somnambulism. This case has been witnessed by a great number of persons from Pawtucket and Providence.

DANIEL GREENE.

Providence, June 22d, 1837.

DEAR SIR—I have carefully examined the series of questions which you have proposed for me to answer; which I can do, with a single exception, in the affirmative. I fully concur with you in the moral obligation which we are under to spread the knowledge of this science, not only from the fact that it must eventually command the attention of the greatest minds, and cause a perfect revolution in some branches of science, but it must prove of incalculable benefit to mankind in the alleviation and cure of diseases. I sincerely regret my inability to do any thing like justice to the subject before me, yet, as the accumulation of facts observed in this country, seems to be your only object, I will endeavor to state such as have come under my own observation, in as plain a manner as the nature of the subject will admit.

Question 1st. "I hear that you have magnetized upward of 20 persons—if so, how many of these have been affected by your action? In what degree have they been affected by your action? How many have been put to the magnetic sleep, so as they would converse with you or feel the action of your will?"

When I state that I have magnetized twenty persons, you will understand me to say, that twenty persons have been affected by me. I have not affected more than half of those whom I have attempted to magnetize; and they have been affected differently; some very slightly—others more, and two or three to the highest degree of magnetic influence. I have found only three with whom I could converse while in a magnetic state, or upon whom I could exercise my will, except in a very slight degree.

Question 2*d.* "Have you been able to produce the magnetic sleep, without using the manipulations, simply by an act of your will?"

I have found the manipulation to be of very little, if any use, after a person has become fully magnetized—in fact, I see no difference in the effect whether I manipulate or not, the will being the same. I have found it convenient to press my hand upon the patient's head, the object being more to fix my own attention, than to affect the subject by coming in contact. I conclude, therefore, that the manipulations are first necessary to produce the magnetic sleep, but afterwards not essential, unless some time has elapsed since the patients have felt the magnetic influence; in which case, they become less subject, and will require the manipulation, as at first.

Question 3*d.* "Have you been able to procure this sleep at a distance, through one or two partition walls, your patient being not at all informed of your operating upon her?"

I can perceive no difference in the time of producing an effect, or in the effect when produced, whether the distance be one foot or one mile, whether there be one or more partition walls between, or nothing at all; yet, after they are asleep, when magnetized at a distance, I do not appear to exercise quite the power of will over

them that I do when in the same room: of this last I am not fully convinced, as I have not had an opportunity to test it fairly. I have put them to sleep at one mile distant, and willed them to wake in a given time, and been promptly obeyed, without knowing the result until the next day, or paying attention to the subject, after they had been magnetized. The intervening of partition walls present not the least obstruction to the magnetic influence. Whether the subject knows you intend putting him to sleep or not, is perfectly immaterial; as the magnetic state depends entirely upon the magnetizer, and not at all upon the magnetized. This experiment I have frequently tested, and even when the subjects have known my intention, and I have been at least one mile distant, they have used the greatest exertions to counteract the influence and throw it off, but in vain.

Question 4th. "Are you convinced, by repeated and tested experiments, that you could affect your patient in any way while in somnambulism, merely by your will?"

Question 5th. "Could you make her perform any motion with her hand? Could you affect her feelings, make her laugh or cry? Could you alter the nature of things for her? Could you palsy her muscles?"

So thoroughly am I convinced in regard to the effects of will upon my patients, that if the science were called the *power of will*, instead of Animal Magnetism, it would convey to my mind a much clearer idea of what it really is. In fact, with the exception of a perfect moral sense, every faculty of the mind and body seems capable of being overcome by the will of the magnetizer. I find no other means of affecting them while in a state of somnambulism, and almost every phenomenon which has been produced, is the effect of will. I will them to raise the hand—the hand rises, a few seconds generally intervening between the time I commenced the opera-

tion of willing and the hand rising. I will her to clench her hand firmly together—physicians and others declare it impossible to open the hand without injuring the muscles. I will her to raise both hands at a time, to let one drop and the other remain, to close the hand by drawing in one finger at a time, to open it in the same manner, to play fantistic tricks and motions with her hands, without any apparent design, and to place any thing which she may hold in her hand into the hand of another, a third person at the same time endeavoring to prevent its performance. With innumerable experiments of this kind, I have generally met with the most perfect success; and when I have failed, which has been very rarely, I have found the fault to be in myself, arising from inattention, fatigue, or ill health. On their being questioned why they did these things, they will say, "Because Mr. Potter wished me to." Nor have they given any other reason for obeying my will, although, frequently questioned by myself and others. I sometimes affect their muscles without their being at all aware of it, at a time when sensation was not entirely suspended. I have found one person, whose muscles could be so much affected, that I could hold the arm in a horizontal position unsupported for some minutes, simply by the will, (after placing it there with my hands) without the subject being conscious of the least action on my part; she at the same time being able to converse with any one with ease, without my having the power to prevent it; her eyes being at the same time extended to their utmost, and the balls rolled back so far as to conceal entirely the pupils. In this situation she has the appearance of a person in great pain, yet she declares that she feels no pain, or unpleasant sensation. I find no difficulty in affecting the feelings of my subjects in all respects, except grief. I

have seen them by other magnetizers brought immediately to tears. This failure I attribute to my entire inability to conceive a state of grief without an existing cause, and my own disposition being rather inclined to cheerfulness and levity. I have often attempted this last experiment without succeeding, the patient generally saying, "I don't know what you want." I will her to laugh, and she laughs heartily; to feel cold, and she shivers, with a fit of the ague; to feel warm, and she says it is uncomfortably so. I hand her an apple, and will it to be a melon, an orange, a squash, a potatoe, or any thing which strikes my fancy, however different from the article she holds in her hand, and the deception is perfect. I hand her a glove, and will it to be an orange, she presses it to her nose with evident pleasure. She afterwards attempts to peal it, and supposes she has done so. I will it to be an apple, she puts it to her mouth, chews and swallows, saying, "It is a very good apple." I will it to be a large melon; it is so heavy she raises it from her lap with difficulty. She asks for a slice; I give her a thin slice from an apple; she eats it, holding on with both hands, and carefully picking out the seeds, as if it were a melon. While eating, I have willed it to be sour or bitter; she immediately takes it from her mouth. I give her a raisin, and will it to be a fig; she eats it at two mouthfulls, saying, "The seeds stick in my teeth." I go through the motion of pouring something into her hand, willing it at the same time to be pea-nuts or any other small fruit. She believes it to be so. If pea-nuts, she finds one raw and another baked, as I may see fit to make it. I give her cold water; she tastes it, and says it is spirits, and does not wish to drink, but would like some wine: I take the tumbler, and hand it immediate-

ly back ; she says it is currant wine. I ask her if she would like some sweetened water ; she says, " Yes." I give her the same tumbler, and will it to be cider ; she immediately takes it from her lips, and says, " It is not what you offered me, it is cider." I hand her an empty tumbler, and will it to contain peppermint, it is peppermint ; I will it to be hot while drinking, she takes it from her lips with the exclamation, " You have scalded me." I immediately give her ice-water from the same tumbler. I held a bottle of hartshorn to her nose, and willed it to be an orange, and it did not affect a muscle in her face. At another time I gave her a pinch of snuff without having anything in my fingers, and she will sneeze with vehemence. In short, the subject seems to be wholly under the control of the magnetizer. If she experience pain in any part of the body, he wills it to cease, and it is gone. Of sickness at the stomach, a thought annihilates it—she wants a tooth extracted, she shows no signs of sensation throughout the operation ; she perceives the loss of the tooth after waking, without knowing at what time it was extracted.

These, sir, are a small portion of the experiments which I have tried with the most perfect success, to prove the power of acting upon a magnetized person, simply by will. A few who have been present when the essays were not perfectly successful, (and I have already stated that this is sometimes the case, owing as I think, chiefly to my own condition of body or mind,) have been disposed to look upon it as less of a certainty than it really is. If such should be disposed to question these statements, there are witnesses enough who have been more fortunate.

AMERICUS V. POTTER.

Doct. Charles Poyen, Boston, Mass.

SECTION IV.

Miss Cynthia Ann Gleason.

The experiments which I have performed on Miss G. and published in several newspapers, have been doubted; even considered, by many, as the results of a concerted plan. Let the unfair and ungenerous think and say what they please. We can no more prevent the human tongue from exercising its evil activity than stop the impetuous and desolating course of a torrent. Whatever opinion may be entertained of me, I feel it my duty to pay a due tribute of justice to virtue, under whatever shape, and in whatsoever circumstances it presents itself. My word does not weigh much, perhaps, in the balance of human estimation, but it is worth its price in the eyes of Him who searches all hearts, and knows the value of all things. These are the feelings which induce me to offer the few following particulars concerning Miss Gleason.

This woman was affected, for nearly ten years, with a very serious and troblesome complaint of the stomach, which had carried her several times to the door of the grave. All the resources of medicine had been powerless against the disease; her existence was wretched to the extreme, and, being deprived of sleep, her nights were still more intolerable for her than the day time. Such was the condition of her health when I was introduced to her, by her physician. I magnetized

her, and from that very first operation she began to feel better, and has not ceased to improve until the present moment. She is now almost completely cured, although she has used no other remedy than magnetism.

After a residence of two months in Pawtucket, I announced to her that I was going to leave for Boston, and had no intention of returning to Rhode Island again. On the very moment I announced to her my departure, she received, from some very respectable ladies of Providence, an invitation to spend a day or two at their houses. I accompanied her in her visit. On the morning of the next day, the conversation happened to fall on the general incredulity which prevailed in regard to magnetism, and on the extreme difficulty to establish such a science in this country. During the conversation, I spoke, in an animated manner, of the obstacles I had to contend against—of the injurious suspicions that were constantly hanging over my character—of the many mean treatments I had received from the press, and even from individuals, whom I had always used with the most polite and friendly attentions, &c. The sympathy of the persons present was strongly excited by my narrative, and they unanimously observed, that if I could procure the assistance of a good somnambulist, to illustrate my lectures, I would certainly overcome all obstacles, or, at least, convince a great many persons, as I had already done in Providence and vicinity; that, finally, I could by that means, secure a comfortable existence, and pursue my enterprize without fear of being stopped for want of pecuniary resources. They then suggested to Miss Gleason to go with me to Boston. She answered, as from a spontaneous movement of her heart, that she would have no objection in accompanying me; that she was al-

ready too much indebted to magnetism for the benefit of her health, not to be glad to have a farther opportunity of helping in the propagation of so useful a science; that, besides, her gratitude towards me, personally, made it a duty to her to assist me in my difficult task, if I thought she could be of any service to me.

I had been previously advised, by several gentlemen, some of whom rank high for their works, and the soundness of their judgment, to bring Miss Gleason with me to Boston, if I could obtain her consent. (See p. 47.) I was, therefore, quite pleased to hear her speak so favorably on the subject. I seized the opportunity to make her a serious offer about it: she asked me eight days to make up her mind. The eight days having expired, and every thing duly considered, she assented to my proposal, and we started for Boston.

From the foregoing statement of facts, it appears evident that Miss Gleason formed the resolution of joining with me for a certain length of time, only with the hope of recovering entirely her health, by magnetism, and with the view of assisting me in the establishment of an important truth. The motive which prompted her in doing it, was a heartfelt gratitude towards me and the science. I will now declare, in the sincerity of my heart, and with the inner conviction that God is hearing me, that Miss Gleason has never manifested that she had any selfish or vulgar object in view. The only thing she required of me, was to pay her board and furnish her with the means of satisfying the strict necessities of life. She has never been willing to receive any pecuniary reward, and has not even passed a single condition with me to provide for her future existence, in case that any circumstance should happen to separate her from me. Since she left Pawtucket, she has, most of the time, lived in private houses, and has

received the kindest attentions, and marks of esteem from all those who became acquainted with her. I never performed any experiments on her before the public but three times only; I did so, at the suggestion of some of our friends, thinking it the best and easiest way of satisfying a great many persons at once. But those public exhibitions have been generally unsuccessful, and I now sincerely repent that I permitted myself to give them. I have usually experimented on Miss G., as well as on other individuals, in presence of select classes, in private rooms, and for no other purpose than to illustrate the principles advanced by me in my lectures. The reports of those classes will show that the experiments have been satisfactory.

The following certificates, from respectable persons, who have been well acquainted with Miss Gleason, will amply vindicate her character from the charges brought against her. I will add, also, the certificates of several very intelligent and well-known gentlemen, who have magnetized her, and thus acquired the conviction that there was and could be no concerted plan between her and me.

—

Pawtuckct, Dec. 31, 1836.

"This is to certify, that Miss Cynthia Ann Gleason is a member of the church of which I am Rector, and that I have confidence in the integrity of her religious character. GEORGE TAFT,

Rector of St. Paul's Church,
North Providence, R. I."

—

Pawtucket, Dec. 31, 1836.

"This is to certify, that I have been Miss Cynthia Ann Gleason's medical adviser, in her protracted illness, for more than nine years past; during said time, and as far as my information extends, she has, through

life, sustained an estimable character. I also state that Doct. C. Poyen, being an entire stranger, was introduced by me to Miss Gleason, and she was put into the magnetic sleep, by Dr. Poyen, on his first visit, (there being no opportunity for collusion,) in my presence, in about thirty minutes, by the mental and manual proceedings taught in his lectures.

N. MANCHESTER, M. D."

—

Pawtucket, Jan. 2, 1837.

"This will certify, that Miss Cynthia Ann Gleason has lived, these last fourteen months, in our family; that she has invariably behaved as a prudent, industrious, and faithful person, and that we have the fullest confidence in her moral character. JOHN FALES.

CAROLINE FALES."

—

Lowell, 1837.

"The subscriber having felt much interest in Animal Magnetism, ever since he read the report of the committee of the Royal Academy of Medicine, of Paris, on this subject, resolved to use all the means which the residence of Mons. Charles Poyen in this city could afford him, to study that new branch of science, and ascertain its reality.

"The subscriber, therefore, certifies, that he has attended Mons. C. Poyen's lectures, both public and private, and numerous experiments, by the same gentleman, on many different subjects, but more especially on Miss Cynthia Gleason. But the subscriber did not content himself with seeing and examining the phenomena produced by other individuals—he has himself experimented upon several persons, and obtained, to his great saitisfaction, results exactly similar to those described by Mons. Poyen, in his lectures, and by the committee of the Royal Academy.

"Agreeably to the invitation of Mons. P. himself, the subscriber has often magnetized Miss Gleason, probably upwards of thirty times; and has made many experiments, always guarding, with the greatest caution, against the possibility of deception: he has magnetized her at all times of the day, often during Mons. Poyen's absence from the city, and several times before a private class, which Mons. P. was instructing. Many of the most successful experiments, by the subscriber, were tried before this class, especially on the communication of the will of the magnetizer to the somnambulist, without the aid of sign or language, such as giving her a piece of bread to eat, and making her call it cheese, or fruit, &c.; giving her water to drink, which she should call sweet cordial, &c.; ordering her to arise from her seat, to show her tongue, &c. &c. These experiments were entirely new, and had never, to their knowledge, been made by Mons. Poyen; in fact, they were selected by the class for that very reason, and invariably, the same phenomena were produced, and with, at least, an equal success as when Miss G. was magnetized by Mons. Poyen.

"The subscriber has proved her in the examination of diseases, by selecting strongly marked cases, of the nature of which there could not be any doubt, in persons whom she had never seen, or, probably, never heard of: he caused her to examine them while Mons. P. was not within thirty miles of this place, and he must say that he has never known her fail to state the case correctly. He has, also, in like manner, and with the same care, proved her to possess the faculty of telling the state of a person's health, their particular diseases, symptoms, &c., by examining a small lock of their hair, even although she may never have seen or heard of the owner before; and, in such cases, if the owner

is subsequently presented to her for examination, she will invariably say that she has *seen him before*, and will recollect and tell all she said at the examination of said hair: finally, all the effects which the subscriber has obtained, and of the reality of which he cannot have any doubt, were entirely similar to those produced by Mons. Poyen, and which have been already published in several newspapers. The subscriber would also state that Miss Cynthia Gleason has resided, occasionally, in his family, where she is much respected for her general propriety of conduct, and goodness of disposition, and nothing has ever been noticed in her character or actions, inconsistent with the strictest delicacy, and Christian morality.

"From all that he has heard, and particularly from what he has himself *seen and examined*, with the greatest care, the subscriber thinks that he is enabled to pronounce Animal Magnetism a *true science*, highly important for the new physiological and psychological phenomena which it exhibits, and its value as a medicinal agent. ALEX. WRIGHT."

The following lines are extracted from a letter addressed by Wm. Coffin, Esq., inspector of the port of Nantucket, to Miss Gleason.

"My wife and I observed you closely, during your stay in our family, and instead of detecting one single act that should lessen you in our esteem, we have seen nothing but what is most favorable to you—nothing but what is consistent with the strictest moral and religious character. * * * I now take the liberty, and it gives me pleasure to say, that from the time when I first saw you, to the present moment, I have neither witnessed nor heard any thing which has left an impression on my mind unfavorable to your character."

Nashua, May 9th, 1837.

"The subscriber having carefully attended the course of lectures and experiments delivered by Dr. Ch. Poyen, in this village, and feeling a lively interest in Animal Magnetism, resolved to make experiments himself, with the view of ascertaining, in a direct manner, its reality and importance. Having, therefore, received the necessary instruction, he magnetized several individuals, entire strangers to Dr. P., and invariably obtained effects similar to those described by this gentleman, in his lectures. The subscriber has succeeded in putting two persons into the state of somnambulism, during which the patients could converse with him, and obey certain mental commands without the aid of signs or language. I also certify, that, with the consent of Dr. Poyen, I have twice operated on Miss C. A. Gleason, and have obtained on her nearly all the results already known to the public, as they have been published in several newspapers. In one instance, Miss G. was put into the magnetic sleep, by the subscriber, while Mons. P. was giving his lecture in another room; which proves that the effects were produced independently of the will of this gentleman.

LEONARD MARBLE."

Among other gentlemen who have successfully magnetized Miss Gleason, I will name Drs. McKean, of Boston, LeBaron Munroe, of Medway, E. Miller, of Franklin, Messrs. P. Duxbury, of Taunton, Thos. D. Elliot, Esq., of New Bedford. All of them have been convinced, from the effects they have obtained on her, by the *sole force of their will*, that she was in a true state of somnambulism. But the strongest proof that I possibly can afford of the perfect honesty of this woman, and, at the same time, of the *reality of the mag-*

netic power, is, that Miss G. has been, at two different times, put into the somnambulic state *when she was not in the least aware of the action exercised upon her, by two other gentlemen besides myself, and even in my absence.* The first of these operations took place at Pawtucket, and while I was myself at a distance of 40 miles, and, consequently, knew nothing about what was going on. The room in which this experiment was tried, was full of company, who had resorted there for the purpose of witnessing a performance of the magnetic operation upon a child of 9 years of age, by Mr. A. Jenks, a respectable citizen of Pawtucket. Miss G. was present, but had not the slightest idea that she was going to be magnetized, as she had been very particularly requested by me, on my departure for Boston, not to suffer any one to operate upon her. Among the persons invited, were Dr. L. Miller, and the Rev. Mr. Vinton, pastor of Grace Church, in Providence. These two gentlemen, knowing that Miss G. had already been put asleep by the *will, alone*, secretly agreed that either of them would try the experiment, and with every possible care not to be detected. Mr. Vinton was the operator. While the company was engaged in witnessing the performances going on, he *willed* Miss G. to go to sleep, without either a word spoken or a gesture made. The result was complete. Miss G. soon felt sleepy; being much surprised at it, she got up and tried to resist the influence, but her efforts were in vain; she was obliged to sit down again, and went into a profound magnetic sleep, from which nothing could arouse her. Those who were present spoke to her, but no one, except Mr. Vinton, could obtain an answer.

During my residence at Salem, Mass., two experiments, of the same kind, were tried upon Miss G., by one of the most eminent lawyers of the city, whose

name I abstain from mentioning here, for particular reasons. Neither Miss G. nor myself were aware of the operation going on; the effect was equally complete and perfectly satisfactory to the experimenter and to his friends. There were at that moment forty gentlemen in the room. These facts are well known in Salem; those who doubt their reality, may inquire there about them.

I now proceed to a more detailed account of a few experiments on Miss Gleason. Most of the following narrations have already appeared in several newspapers, and I will beg the reader to bear in mind, that none of the gentlemen whose names have been mentioned, as references, have yet denied a single one of my statements—which must be a proof of their correctness.

Extracted from the Providence Journal of Nov. 17th, 1836.

Experiments on Animal Magnetism. The subject of these experiments is a young lady well known in this place, where she has been residing for over ten years. There is but one opinion concerning her character: that she is surpassed by no one in purity of mind, disinterestedness, laborious habits, and religious disposition. But, alas! in this "valley of tears" and *hard trials*, called the earth, happiness is not frequently in proportion with virtue! Miss Cynthia Gleason has been for eight or nine years laboring under a complicated nervous and functional disease, which baffled all the skill of physicians. It would be too long, and perhaps insignificant to describe here the various symptoms of this complaint. I will say only that, in consequence of it, the sleep of the patient had become diffi-

cult, short, very much troubled by pains, and always followed with a dullness of the mind, and heaviness of the system for several hours after awakening.

I need not say that I was a perfect stranger to Miss Gleason, and that she was, for her part, entirely ignorant even of the words Animal Magnetism, when she heard of it for the first time, by her attendant physician, the respectable Dr. Manchester, of Pawtucket. This gentleman proposed to her to try an experiment, with the hope that she might receive benefit from it. She very cheerfully agreed; and, in consequence, I was brought to her lodgings, by Dr. Manchester, on Sunday, the 5th inst., at half past four o'clock in the afternoon. I must state here that I was very much pleased to find her perfectly calm and sober. I have acquired, since the first visit, the full conviction that she is one of those persons upon whom "imagination has very little empire." Miss Gleason told us, among other things, that she had not much faith in Animal Magnetism, and that she would "*defy any one to put her to sleep in this manner.*" I observed to her that I did not think myself that I could put her to sleep at the first trial, as I intended to magnetize her only 15 or 20 minutes, with the view of establishing a mere communication between us. Her pulse, taken by Dr. Manchester, gave 84 pulsations per minute before the operation. I commenced, and in the course of 25 minutes we perceived that her eyes grew dim and her lids fell heavily down—in 30 minutes she was profoundly asleep—pulse gave 94 pulsations. We tried her senses in every possible manner; nothing could disturb her: the sleep lasted half an hour; I caused it to cease by a few gestures with my hand, at several inches distant from her face.

The next day, I resorted again to the patient's house, at a quarter before four in the afternoon, together with

Dr. Gardner and E. Walcott, Esq. Miss Gleason told us that she had slept very well all the night, and felt better than usual,—the operation commenced at 4 o'clock, exactly,—and although the patient, according to her own avowal, tried to keep awake, she was fast asleep in ten minutes. On the next day the number of her attendants was still greater. Sleep was produced in 7 1-2 minutes; on Wednesday, in six minutes the desired effect was obtained.

As the patient had already experienced some benefit by these operations, she manifested to us the desire of being magnetized once in public, in order, said she, to convince the unbelievers, and establish a truth so important to religion and the health of mankind. I must also state, as another proof of the qualities of her heart, that she took this resolution for my reputation's sake, viz. to prove that I was not an impostor, and that my labors really deserved more encouragement than I have hitherto obtained.

Therefore, having previously consulted all my friends about it, and received their unanimous approbation, I concluded to accept Miss Gleason's proposal. The intended experiment took place on Thursday last, at the Pawtucket Hotel, before an audience of 170 persons, comprising the medical faculty and a part of the clergy of the village.

I commenced operating at a quarter before 8 o'clock. In the course of four minutes, the patient shut her eyes; then I got up and suddenly thrust with my foot against the floor, the chair upon which I was sitting,—no sensible effect was produced by this noise. Finally, in five minutes, the lady appearing profoundly asleep, I left her and commenced my lecture, which lasted nearly three quarters of an hour, and was listened to with much interest. Miss Gleason continued sleeping during that

length of time. When the lecture was over, we resumed our experiments. We proceeded to ascertain whether the lady was really in the magnetic sleep. We pinched her—pricked her with a pin—tickled her lips, nostrils, and eyelids with a bit of paper; no sensation was manifested. A gentleman put his mouth close to her ear, and asked her, in a very loud voice, if she was not tired of sleeping, and wished to get up? She remained perfectly deaf to the sound of this loud voice; another man whistled in a most shrilling manner, and clapped his hands; but all the disturbance was without effect upon her. Hartshorn was held suddenly under her nose, for some moments, and though she must have inspired the strong effluvia, no sign of unusual sensation was manifested. Several persons spoke to her in succession, and she took no notice of what they said. Then I stood at the distance of a few feet from her, and *mentally* requested her, without touching her, to give me her hand, and she immediately held out her hand towards mine. I wished her to leave my hand and she did immediately Some other individuals tried the same experiment, but without success. A handkerchief was put over her eyes; I stretched again my hand, and she gave me her's without hesitation. There could be no collusion here, because the bandage being fixed closely over her eyes, effectually shut up every avenue to her mind, except that by which the mysterious magnetic sympathy is imparted. This last experiment was so fairly made, and so successful, that one of the medical gentlemen present who had been incredulous until this moment, acknowledged that he was convinced.

Then, after telling in a low voice to the ladies and gentlemen who were standing around her, that I was going to cause her, by my will, to open her lids without awakening her, I made a motion upwards with my fore-

finger, at the distance of three inches from her face, and immediately we saw her open her lids to the utmost width. There she sat still perfectly motionless, and gazing at me in the most intense manner. She looked exactly like a wax figure.

With the view of ascertaining whether she was still in the state of magnetic insensibility, I darted suddenly my fingers near to her eye-balls in rapid succession; yet she winked not, and appeared as insensible as a blind person. Rev. Mr. Taft, having noticed that her pupils were extremely dilated, suggested the idea of placing two blazing lamps before her eyes; so we did, and yet the sudden glare of light thus falling on the unprotected pupil, was as ineffectual as so much light on the eyes of a corpse. I made a motion downwards with my hand, and the lids were closed again.

At my request, Edward Walcott, Esq. asked the somnambulist to drink of water that he presented to her lips—but she took no notice of it. I *mentally* asked her whether she wished for some water; she answered in a tone audible to those who were around her, that she "*did not feel thirsty.*" I mentally again urged her to take some—then she opened her lips, grasped at the tumbler, and drank two or three swallows of the liquid.

After she had slept one hour and a half, I walked six or seven feet from her, and, by waving my arm once only, I awakened her immediately. She awoke quite exhilarated, and, to use her own words, "*as bright as a dollar.*" She had no recollection of any one circumstance that had transpired.

Among the persons present, the following gentlemen are ready to certify for the truth of the above statement:—Rev. Mr. Taft, Rev. Daniel Greene, Rev. Thomas Worcester of Bridgewater; Drs. Manchester, Gard-

ner, Cleveland, Bucklin, of Valley Falls, Carpenter; Edward Walcott, John Street, Samuel Lord, Esqrs.; George Crawford, superintendent of the Franklin Print Works; Mr. Barshal, Professor of the Hebrew, French and German languages, at Brown University, &c. &c.

CHARLES POYEN.

The following narrative was made from the notes taken by one of the officers of Brown University, during the *seance.*

Were present and may be referred to for the truth of the statement,—Rev. Dr. Wayland, President of Brown University; Professors Caswell and Chace, Mr. Shepherd, a tutor in the College; Rev. Edward B. Hall; Drs. Tobey, Manchester, &c. &c.

8h. 8m.—Pulse full—84 beats per minute.

8h. 9m.—I commenced magnetizing her by *willing*, *simply*, without resorting to the usual manipulations; I was sitting beside her, at two feet distant.

8h. 10m.—She nodded and looked drowsy.

8h. 11m.—Sound asleep; somebody clapped loudly his hands; another moved her in her chair; she did not awake.

8h. 11½m.—I then magnetized by the usual manipulations.

8h. 15m.—Pulse less full—beat about the same.

The patient was breathing calmly, and her eyes were perfectly shut, as in the natural sleep.

The experiments then commenced. We proceeded, in the first place, to ascertain the suspension of sensibility.

1. A large tavern bell was rung close to her ear—no perceptible change took place; loud shouting in her ears produced no more effect.

8h. 20m.—Respiration 32 per minute; hands colder, pulse 84.

2. A pistol was fired in the room, within five feet of her head—not the slightest change was manifested, whereas some other persons were obliged to leave the room, on account of the violent impression made upon their organ of hearing.

3. A bottle of ammoniacal gas was placed under her nose; respiration became quicker, and she appeared disturbed by it, yet there was no appearance of waking. I was then in the next room.

4. The nostrils were tickled with a feather—no change was perceptible.

8h. 30m.—Pulse 80—respiration 26—hands growing colder.

5. At the suggestion of Dr. Tobey, I caused her to open her lids, simply by moving upwards my fore finger a few inches distant from her face. The pupils seemed to be as in the natural state. A lamp was brought suddenly before them, and produced no effect on the pupil, and apparently no sensation at all. I thrust violently my finger towards her eye-ball—no perceptible change took place.

Other Experiments and Observations.

1. I whispered to the person standing next to me, in so low a tone that the sound of my voice could be heard by no other person in the room, that I would *mentally* ask her to give me her hand. Her eyes were exactly closed; I held my hand a short distance above hers; she immediately raised her hand and grasped mine.

2. Dr. Wayland wrote on a paper—"Tell her, mentally, to clasp her hand." I mentally put the question. She shook her head negatively, but said and did nothing. A few moments after, I mentally put her again

the same question. She shook again her head negatively, but did not execute my will.

She then began to talk aloud, and told us an amusing anecdote concerning a man she had met in the street.

Prof. Caswell. Where did you meet him? No answer.

Writer. Where did you meet him? Somewhere down the street.

Various other questions were put to her, but she would answer no other than mine.

I mentally asked her where is Dr. Manchester? She answered—I should like to talk to Dr. Manchester about my stomach.

Dr. Manchester. How does it feel? No answer.

Writer, aloud. Do you hear Dr. Manchester? Yes.

Dr. Manchester. Do you feel bad? No answer.

Writer, aloud. Do you feel bad? Yes.

6. A paper was handed to me, on which was written, "lift up your right hand." Without a word being spoken, she immediately raised it at my mental request.

7. *I, aloud.* Do you see any people around you? No. Did any one come with me this morning? Three or four from Providence. (True.) Who were they? President Wayland, Dr. Tobey, Professor Chace, and some others.

8. Signs were made to me, to tell her mentally to grasp my hand, and then, on raising it for this purpose, when Dr. Wayland interposed his; she took no notice of it, but still moved hers towards mine, and moved it on one side and the other as I moved mine. She finally grasped it. This was varied and repeated several times, and uniformly with the same result, although there was a large slate placed constantly before her face and chest, in order to prevent entirely, the natural vision.

9. I asked her, aloud, whether she should like to be magnetized? Yes. Having done so, I asked her if she recollected having replied to my request to magnetize her? She said, No.

10. Dr. Wayland grasped her hand, and then by signs requested me to tell her, mentally, to take my own hand. She immediately, obeying my *wish*, pulled her hand away from Dr. Wayland, and grasped at mine.

11. Then I whispered to Prof. Chace that I would make her give her hand, and answer to Dr. Wayland. I wished her to do this, and immediately she grasped at Dr. Wayland's hand.

Dr. Wayland, aloud. What was the weather this morning? Stormy—(true.) How is it now? Clear —(true.) When did it clear off? This afternoon—(true.) How many looms did you attend to to-day? Five—(true.)

12. A small tumbler of water was brought, and I asked her aloud if she would have some water. She said, Yes; she took the tumbler, and, raising it to her mouth, drank some. Some chloric ether was then poured into the tumbler, which gave a strong taste to the liquid; she drank some of it, and having been asked by me what taste she found in it, she replied, "No other than that of water." During these experiments, a handkerchief, folded several times, was kept over her eyes.

13. I then whispered that I would make her mistake the liquid for paregoric. I gave her again the tumbler; she drank, and I asked her what it was? She answered, "It tastes like wine."

14. Rev. E. B. Hall, sitting close to her, put her several questions, to which she made no reply. At Mr. Hall's request, I wished her to hear him, and she an-

swered him immediately. Dr.Tobey also spoke to her, and she made a reply which, in all appearances, was for the Doctor's question. Somebody noticed that she had answered Dr. Tobey, although no communication had been established between him and her. Then I wished her to remain deaf to every voice but mine; and immediately she ceased to answer the questions made to her by the other gentlemen.

15. *Dr. Wayland.* "How many looms do you usually attend?" No answer. Dr. W. then made me signs to request her, mentally, to reply to him. I signified that I had done so. Dr. W.—"How many looms do you usually attend?" "Three—sometimes four." Dr. W.—"You would not answer me before; why now?" "Because Mr. Poyen told me to." Dr. W. —"Why do you take my hand?" "Because Mr. Poyen told me to." Dr. W.—"But you ought to obey me as well as him." She pushed away his hand apparently in displeasure.

9 o'clock, 25m. Pulse 72—The same experiment was tried by some other persons, and with the same results.

16. A slate was held between her eyes and me. Then I extended my foot—she raised hers until they met. Having made a sign that I would mentally tell her to withdraw it, she immediately did so. She would follow my foot with hers wherever I turned it.

17. *I, aloud.* "You have drank some water, have you not?" "Yes." "Recollect that, when I awake you." "Yes."

18. I retired the length of the room, and endeavored to wake her by simply willing it; in one minute I succeeded so far as to open her eyes and give every appearance of waking. I then advanced, and, by the usual manipulations, immediately awoke her. Time 9h. 38m.

19. "Do you recollect to have taken any thing?" "Yes, some water." "Any thing else?" "No."

When fully awake, she said she felt fatigued—she usually felt refreshed by the magnetic operation; was totally unconscious of every thing that occurred while asleep; did not know how long she had been asleep.

Her pulse was not taken after she awoke.

C. P.

From the Providence Journal of Nov. 24, 1836.

"Remarkable Phenomena of Animal Magnetism. Having received, from Dr. Poyen, a polite invitation to witness a case of magnetical somnambulism, now under his charge at Pawtucket, with the assurance that an hour there spent 'would be one of the most wonderful of my life,' I went, last evening, accompanied by a gentleman of the highest integrity, who witnessed with me the facts I am about to relate, and who would give testimony to the truth.

"At half past 7 o'clock we went to the boarding-house of the somnambulist, (Miss Cynthia Gleason,) whom we found 'sitting, dressed, and in her right mind,' conversing with some twelve or fifteen ladies and gentlemen.

"On being introduced, she rose from her seat, and very modestly gave her hand, saying—'I am happy to see you.' She is rather tall and slender; has large prominent eyes, and an expression of purity, of religious thought, rests upon her well-marked features, which are rather pale than fair. Wishing to observe something of her manner of conversing, her looks, thoughts, and tone of voice, while in her 'natural state,' I began inquiring into the state of her health,

and whether she had experienced benefit from magnetism? She replied, 'I think I am better than I was last night, and feel much better for being magnetized.' Do you like it? one asked. 'Oh! I think I have been operated upon long enough—it is time some one took my place.' At this moment, Dr. Poyen, who stood by my side before the fire, at the distance of about eight feet from the patient, touched my foot with his, as a sign that he had commenced magnetizing her with his *will.* I instantly looked at my watch, and marked the moment when the operation commenced, being curious to watch every movement of the magnetizer, whose magic power seems not less wonderful than the *clairvoyance* of the somnambule.

"I first looked at him. He stood perfectly still, his eyes firmly fixed upon the patient, not on her eyes, for she had slightly turned her head, which rested upon the back of the rocking-chair, in which she was sitting, with a deep and earnest look of entreaty and resolve—of *wishing* and *willing.* It was that fervent, speaking expression of the soul, which no one can voluntarily give to his countenance, who has not well learned that wisest lesson--that most heroic of arts—*to rule his spirit.* In about half a minute her eye-lids trembled and fell—her head nodded—her hands dropped lifelessly, and in one minute and a half her sleep seemed as profound and complete, save a gentle breathing, as the last deep sleep that falls on mortals! That supernatural going to sleep, to me, was a moment solemnly impressive. In that mysterious slumber, that 'deep sleep' of the senses, I saw an emblem of the sublimity of death!

"Standing before that senseless body—that faintly-breathing, half-living corpse, I questioned more deeply within myself, than ever before, what is the human soul? And what are the true laws of its action and

existence? Alas! there was no responsive philosophy, which, at such a moment, could satisfactorily explain the momentous problem. But I feel, and there was consolation in this feeling, for the aching want of true wisdom and soul-science, that God and eternity are the only answer to these mysterious phenomena—these apparitions of the Infinite and Unknown. But this was a time for observation, and not reflection. Dr. P. now advanced, and stood at about two feet from the somnambulist; when he inclined his head towards her —touched gently her forehead with his extended fingers; then drew his hands rapidly down her arms, sometimes with slight friction; threw them off suddenly at right angles; brought them again over to her forehead, frequently resting them a moment upon the top of the head. These gestures were continued about two minutes, during which the patient drew a long breath, which seemed more expressive of deep emotion than physical pain. There was something in it too tranquil for a sigh. It was like the breathing which we sometimes witness in a sleeping child, when its whole being lies melted into one delicious sense of deepest and sweetest repose.

"He now ceased magnetizing her by external operations. Her hands grew cold, her pulse was quick and tremulous. No impression could now be made upon her senses; she was dumb and deaf, and dead to all except her magnetizer! The warm principle of Life, which gives sensation to every nerve, was temporarily withdrawn from its cage of clay, and left it almost as cold and inanimate as the empty sepulchre of the risen Spirit. Her magnetizer, after we had questioned her in vain, spoke to her in a low voice about her case. She replied, with true and beautiful emphasis, with a calm and eloquent earnestness, 'This is the Lord's doing! but it is

not wonderful in our eyes. It is only the ignorant who cannot understand it. If people would only read and study more, they would know more about these things.' 'Yes,' said Dr. P., 'if people spent less time in bar-rooms, and more in seeking to know what is truth in philosophy and religion, it would be better for them, much better.' 'O yes,' was her reply — 'there is ——— ———, (calling the name,) he refused to let his daughter have a ticket to attend your lectures. When you meet him in the street you would think he was a gentleman; but—' (here she spoke in strong and unreserved, but perfectly calm and decorous language, of the individual she had alluded to.) At my request, I was then put in communication with her, simply by the wish and will of her magnetizer that she would answer my questions and talk with me. Instantly—although her head was turned from me, her eyes shut and no audible wishes had been expressed—she nodded assent to the mental request of Dr. P., raised her right hand feebly, and extended it towards me. I inquired, Are you at rest? She said, 'Yes.' Have you attended church to-day? Ans. 'I have.' Whom did you hear preach? Ans. 'Mr. Taft.' I was going to continue, when she suddenly withdrew her hand, and instantly became to me as one dead. I looked up and saw that the eyes of the magnetizer were again upon her. He confessed, by a smile and a wink, that he had put an end to our conversation. He afterwards permitted her to converse with any one who had the curiosity to ask her questions. He then repeated before her the former magnetic gestures, extending his fingers frequently to the eyebrows and forehead, in order to effect *lucidity*—wishing and willing with all his might. Once he spoke his wishes aloud, 'that her mind would leave the brain, would come out of the body, and see

what should be held over or behind her.' She answered, 'I will try.' I then took a watch-key from my pocket and held it one or two inches directly above her head. Dr. P. asked what it was? She said, 'Is it not something steel?' 'But tell us what object it is?' 'I cannot tell; it hurts my eyes.' I then took a book and held it in the same position. She answered immediately, 'It is a book;' and with an emphasis that indicated certain knowledge. Before, she had rather, by the peculiar inflections of her voice, asked than told what the object was. A huge bunch of peacock's feathers were held over her. She said, promptly, 'It is a bunch of feathers.' John Street, Esq. placed a large pencil-case several inches above her head; Dr. P. asked her to tell what it was; she answered readily, 'It is a pencil.' These experiments were repeated some time: she had failed in naming the watch-key, but succeeded in every other instance.

"She complained to Dr. P. that she 'felt confused.' He again magnetized her, with the intention to calm her mind and tranquillize the nerves. I then expressed a desire—as she had told her magnetizer that she saw the objects 'through his mind,' and that, in her own language, 'his spirit witnessed with her spirit'—to put her *clairvoyance* to a farther test, by concealing the object from Dr. P. I took from my pocket a small knife, very small, and held it in my shut hand over her head. Dr. P. begged earnestly that she would 'tell immediately what it was;' she said promptly, 'It is a penknife!' He then asked her to tell him the exact time of the evening; but her answer was not correct by any watch.

"He then magnetized her more. I held my watch above her head with the face down. She said, 'It is half past eight o'clock.' It was within one minute of the truth. Dr. P. again wished her to converse with

me; and having heard that in her natural state she had expressed some doubts and fears as to the propriety and rectitude of her submitting herself to the operations of magnetism, owing to the sneers of the incredulous and the frowns of the bigoted: I assured her I could see no harm, but much of good resulting from these experiments, which she suffered to be made for the benefit of her health, and the high gratification of the wise and good. That all true philosophy and religion are friends, and can never operate against each other. Don't you know, I said, that the perfect one 'went about doing good?'—That he restored a withered hand, opened the eyes of the blind—and in his sympathy and benevolence turned water into wine for his friends? 'Oh! yes,' said she, 'it was Jesus.' Well, I replied, none but the benevolent—the good, can do these things.—'None can do these things except it be given him of the Father.'

"As I said these words, she pressed my hand as if she found sympathy in the thought. I inquired, Do you not think it would be a great blessing to those who are sick—who cannot sleep, to be put at rest as you are? She replied, 'It would be a great blessing indeed.' Dr. P. inquired if she knew the profession of the person with whom she was conversing. She said, 'He reads a good deal, and I should think he was a Teacher!' I replied, I am; and shall take pleasure in giving my scholars an account of the facts I am witnessing. She said, 'You may tell them from me, if you please, that I do not these things for money—for love of worldly gain, but for my own benefit and the good of my fellow-creatures.' Dr. P. asked her if she would have some drink. She said, 'Yes.' A small tumbler of water was brought in, which I presented to her lips.—She refused to drink, and seemed entirely unconscious.

Dr. P. then took the water—placed his fingers upon the edge of the tumbler, held it a short time in this position, then gave it into her hand. She carried it to her mouth, sipped moderately until it was about two thirds exhausted, and gave it back to her magnetizer. He asked her what she had drank. She said, 'It was some of Mr. Fales' sweet wine.' He remarked, that was what he had wished it might be to her. He then said to her, I wish you to awake in six minutes precisely from this time. He previously had requested her to remember when she awoke, having seen the bunch of feathers, and the word *clairvoyance*. Several gentlemen held watches to count the time. In five minutes she sighed—brought her hand to her head, and gave symptoms of awakening. Dr. P. having been out of the room, now entered and stood about six feet from her. At the end of the sixth minute she partly opened her eyes, and looked around with a smile of diffidence. On being asked if she felt bright, she looked at Dr. P., threw her hand towards him, and said with much *naivete*, 'I wish you would wake me up.' He said, 'I will.'—At the same time telling us with a wink, that he would do the contrary.

"He looked again steadily upon her, and in a moment she fell back into that deep, mysterious sleep, more wonderful because less frequently witnessed, than that more mysterious, and sublimely awful sleep of Death, in which so many of the living, moving, beautiful forms of Life, hourly lie down, in the bosom of their mother, hid forever from mortal eyes, beneath the ample folds of that great, green mantle, the winding-sheet that enshrouds us all. I have written what I have seen, and believe to be true;—yet I must confess I have felt the while as though I was recording fiction, and have not faith that those who will take the trouble to read, will regard it as any thing else."

The above well-written article, is from the pen of my talented friend Hiram Fuller, a well-known instructer of a high school in Providence.

From the Providence Journal, Nov. 24, 1836.

Thursday, November 17th.

There were nearly 20 persons in the room, among whom were Dr. Manchester, Mr. Nathan Buffington, a manufacturer, Mr. Hale, teacher of the High School, a gentleman from Columbia, South Carolina, &c.— The patient was sitting, as usual, in her rocking-chair. Dr. Mauran took her pulses—84 beats; I began magnetizing her *mentally, only*, while I was standing up, four or five feet distant from her, near the fire-place. There were several gentlemen placed between me and her. In *one* minute and a half she leant her head against the chair, and shut her eyes. In two minutes, I declared that she was profoundly asleep. Indeed, all our attempts to awake her produced no effect at all. The same experiments that had been made on the night of Tuesday, 15th, were repeated, at this sitting, with equal success. Dr. Mauran spoke to her several times, but obtained no answer. Then he signified to me to establish communication between him and her. I requested her, *mentally*, without a word spoken by any one present, to hear this gentleman—and immediately she gave him her hand, in a friendly manner, and began to hold conversation with him. I signified that I would cause the communication to cease: I merely *wished* that it would be so; and immediately the somnambulist pushed away Dr. Mauran's hand, and ceased to hear him. Another gentleman tried the same

experiment, with the same result. Some one wrote on a piece of paper—ask her "*How much per cut*, (about 30 yards,) do you receive?" I retired the length of the room, and while 8 or 9 persons were standing between the somnambulist and me, I put the question simply by moving my lips, without uttering any sound. (She answered distinctly 14 cents, which was correct.) This other question was written on a piece of paper and handed to me. "*How many cuts have you* woven in a week?" She answered, Sometimes more and sometimes less.

At the request of Dr. Mauran, by moving upwards my fore-finger at the distance of two inches from her face, I caused her to open her lids, but without awakening her. A blazing lamp was held before her eyes; she winked a little; then fearing that she might suffer afterwards by it, I caused the lids to close again by a motion downwards of my fingers. As it was growing late, I announced that I was going to close the experiment by bringing the somnambulist, all asleep, into her bed-room. Then I laid my hand on her forehead, and told her, *mentally*, that it was time to go to bed; she answered, "*I understand you*," and got up very readily and walked into the next chamber. The door was shut, and two minutes having elapsed, Mrs. Fales and some other ladies re-entered the parlor, and told us that the somnambulist had undressed herself, still in the magnetic sleep, and was now lying on her bed. We entered the room; I magnetized her a minute or two, with the view of procuring her a sound and restoring sleep all the night through. Dr. M. approached the bed, and bade her good night. She took no notice of his voice; I wished her to answer him, and immediately she stretched her hand towards his, and began to talk with him. I wished her to cease; she withdrew her hand,

and spoke no longer. The same experiment was made by the gentleman from Columbia, with the same result. I bade her good night, and told her to sleep until a quarter before *seven* in the morning. We retired. The next morning, Mr. Buffington, Mr. and Mrs. Fales entered her room 25 minutes before seven, and found her still soundly asleep, and exactly in the same position in which I had left her the night previous. They made a noise, called her up; but all was in vain; but as their watch was going to mark the time I had prescribed, she moved her hands and opened her eyes.

C. P.

The most remarkable of Miss Gleason's faculties, during the state of somnambulism, is that of discerning the symptoms of diseases, and prescribing appropriate remedies for them. This seems to be a "*natural propensity, an instinctive* disposition in her." As soon as a person is put in communication with her, she first takes his pulse and proceeds on examining the state of his health, whether she has been directed or not, by the magnetizer to do it. This power is also the most constant and certain we have observed in her: out of nearly 200 patients, of all descriptions, she has examined within 8 or 9 months, I have known but two or three failures, or rather unsatisfactory cases, when her "*lucidity* (clearness of mind and feeling) was completely deranged by ill health, mental troubles or fatigue occasioned by some previous experiments." The manner in which she investigates a disease is this:—She first examines the state of the pulse, then passes slightly her hand over the patient's head, chest, epigastrium, and abdomen; then describes the symptoms and feelings, and pronounces upon the appearances of the

external organ. My opinion, and it is that of Deleuze, Bertrand, Rostair, Georget, Koreff, &c. is, that the somnambulists, (I must observe that there are but few who have this faculty) are made sensible of the morbid dispositions and symptoms of other people, through an unusually exalted state of the sympathies, which enables them to *feel* the disease as though they were themselves affected with it. It is by that means, that they are able, sometimes, to give as accurate a description of the disorder, as the patient himself could do it. I do not pretend, however, that some somnambulists cannot *see* the internal organs; I had, indeed, frequent and conclusive proofs of the contrary. I will quote an instance or two: Having been directed by me to describe the heart, and the manner in which the blood circulates in and about it, (Dr. E. Bartlett, and Mr. Wright of Lowell, were present.) She said that she saw four cavities, two superior, (the auricles,) and two inferior, (the ventricles,) that the blood was poured into the right cavities, *through a large vessel, as through a tunnel*, and came out again by the left cavities; that the blood poured into the heart was very dark colored, and that which comes out from it, much more light, *at least two shades lighter than the other.* She then said that part of the blood was transmitted from the heart into the lungs though several vessels, &c. After awaking I requested her to describe to us the same organs; but she could not answer a single one of my questions. I urged her to tell her ideas about these points; she then said that she thought the chest was full of blood, and the heart completely surrounded by that liquid, as a ball dipped into water.—Miss G. has several times described accurately various articles of food or drink contained in my stomach, although I had not told her a word about it! On another occasion, having been

directed by me to describe how the food reaches the stomach and the air penetrates into the lungs, she said, after some moments of attention, that she saw *two pipes* descending along the neck, the one placed over the other; that the one laying behind, and a little on the left side of the other, conducts the food to the stomach; that this last organ was curved from left to right; that the inside of it was of a reddish color; that the other pipe comes down so far as the upper part of the chest, (she indicated the place with her fingers,) and there divides itself into two branches, one of which goes into the left, and the other into the right lung; that those main branches were divided again in many other smaller pipes. After awaking, I put her the same questions, but she was utterly unable to answer them: he said she *had never thought about it;* the only conjecture she could form, was "*that there was but one pipe for the food and the air, going down to the stomach, that this organ laid straight down in the chest, &c.*"

Some persons will say that I had previously instructed Miss G. I shall not trouble myself about such ungenerous suppositions; I write candidly what I know to be the truth, and am confident that my friends and all those who have paid a serious attention to magnetism will believe me.

If it were not for fear of enlarging this work beyond my purpose, I might present here a most interesting series of examinations of diseases by Miss C. Gleason, which prove, beyond all dispute and cavil, her wonderful *medical tact and lucidity.* I will content myself with presenting the following paragraph, from an article inserted by Doct. C. Cutter, in the Nashua Gazette, of July 21, 1837, and a few other cases extracted from my diary.

"During the lectures of Mons. Poyen recently in

this place, I requested that Miss Gleason, while a somnambula, should examine a patient of mine, Miss Priscilla Baldwin. This she did, in presence of several gentlemen; neither M. Poyen or Miss G. ever saw Miss B. previous to the experiment, or had any knowledge of her case. Passing over the general examination of Miss B. which was correct, she applied her hand to her left side, said there was an oval cavity there, filled with a yellowish fluid thicker than water. She applied her hand to the part diseased—the swelling was concealed by her dress to ordinary observers. Subsequently, Miss B. was examined by Dr. J. C. Warren, of Boston, who said this swelling which was of eighteen months standing, was a wen, and advised its being cut out.

"The day following the examination by Dr. Warren, I opened the swelling, which discharged more than half a pint of a yellowish fluid thicker than water, and the 'wen' was *entirely* gone. If Miss Gleason could not see, this must be good 'guessing.' In examining another individual in this place, she applied her hand to a part of the system covered by her apparel, and said there was a scar; and so there was. If this was not seeing, it must be good 'guessing.' While here, Miss G., in a state of somnambulism, examined the Hon C.G. Atherton, James Osgood, Esq., D. W. Jones, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Nahor, Miss Wise, and Miss Adams, who all say that Miss G. designated the situation of disease in every case—I know of no failure here in the examination of patients. Likewise Mr. Alexander Wright, agent of the Carpet Factory, Lowell, informed me that Miss G. correctly designated the location of disease in a dozen individuals, without a single failure. If she could not see, she must be good at 'guessing.' These are facts, and I have given the names of reputable in-

dividuals. If it be true that Miss G. and other somnambules can detect and describe disease in the human system, it cannot be all a 'poor deception,' but it is valuable to those diseased. Are there not many in our community, after having feed six or eight M. D.'s, the first telling the patient the disease is in the head, the second in the lungs, the third in the liver, the fourth in the stomach, the fifth in the blood, the sixth that the nerves are disordered, &c. Who would not prefer the 'guessing' of a somnambula like the above to the discordant opinions of M. D.'s, as it is rare that two agree when separate."

Case 1st. Among other examinations made by Miss G. during my residence at Lowell, Mass., I will mention that of Mr. Mann, the father of Sam'l. H. Mann, Esq., a lawyer of the place. She had never seen or heard of the patient, and was put into the magnetic sleep even before she was introduced into the room where the old gentleman was laying on his bed. After passing her hand slightly over his head, chest, abdomen, &c., Miss G. stated that Mr. M. was sick all over; that his disease was mainly in the blood, the general constitution of which was profoundly altered; that this liquid was not much better than water; that his stomach was very weak, his lungs and particularly the right one very much affected; that he had *water in his chest;* that his spleen was also affected, and a great deal larger than it ought to be; she said that there was very little hope of recovery, as the disease was so general, and the patient already advanced in age; but that, however, he might receive some benefit from magnetism, and by following a treatment which she was going to prescribe. Being requested to name the disease, she said she did not know the scientific name of it; but that she would judge it to be what is commonly called the King's evil.

(The patient was, indeed, affected with the Scrofula, in the worst stage.)

The treatment prescribed by the somnambulist was not applied; (it is very probable that no treatment in the world could have restored, nor even improved in the least Mr. M.'s health!) He died three weeks after Miss G.'s visit! A post mortem examination was made by Doctors Green and Bartlett, in presence of Mr. Saml. H. Mann; according to the account given me by the two last gentlemen *nearly three gallons of a whitish liquid was extracted from the chest of the diseased man;* his *spleen* weighed as much as three pounds, whereas it ought to weigh only from six to eight ounces; he was found altered all over, and his blood was very thin and poor, as Miss G. had stated.

—

Medway, May 24th, 1837.

This will certify, that, at the request of my physician, Doct. Le Baron Munroe, I caused myself to be examined by Miss Cynthia A. Gleason, while in somnambulism, for a long and very complicated nervous disease. Having passed her hand slightly over my head, chest, stomach, sides, &c. Miss G. gave a minute and remarkably accurate description of my *feelings* in those various parts. She said that my complaint had originated several years ago, in my liver, and thence the affection of the blood and my other troubles. I can only say, in relation to this, that I was taken sick eight years ago, and that my disease was then considered and treated as a *bilious one*, by my physician. Ever since, my health has been poor. Having been directed to examine my head with great care, she said *that she discovered, in the lower part of my forehead*, (she pointed to the place with her fingers, just above the root of the nose and inwardly,) *a purple spot, now as big as a nine-pence, but*

that it must have been as large as a cent; that this spot had been caused by a sore, and a collection of matter, which had discharged through the nose and in the back part of it, in the throat; that I had spit a part of the matter: she added, that while the matter was collecting, I must have been flighty, and perhaps crazy; that I had felt a pressure over my eyes, which almost obliged me to keep them shut! I certify, that all these particulars are correct, and that every thing took place exactly as Miss G. described it! (there are already two weeks since the matter has discharged.) Furthermore, on examining my inferior limbs, she said that they were very weak; that I could not walk; (true,) that my right limb was the most lame; (true,) but that I had more pain in the left; (correct.) Miss G. prescribed for me a treatment which was judged remarkably consistent and rational by Doctors Nathaniel Miller of Franklin, E. Miller his son, and Le Baron Munroe, who were present. I will finally certify that I was an entire stranger to Dr. Poyen and Miss G., and that very probably they had not heard a word concerning my complaint, as they had just arrived in the place.

SARAH S. THURSTON.

—

I never directed Miss Gleason but once, to examine a patient at a distance; as the result of this examination was altogether extraordinary, I will briefly relate it.—One evening during my residence at Pawtucket, in the month of December, 1836, I called, on a friendly visit, at the house of Samuel Lord, Esq. who felt a lively interest in Animal Magnetism. Contrary to my expectations I found Miss Gleason there. (She had been invited by Mr. L. to spend the evening with his family.) I put her into the magnetic sleep, and to try her clairvoyance at a distance, I requested her to *go to Dr. Man-*

chester's house, three quarters of a mile, and tell me what she saw there ; I requested her also to see who was sick in the house. After describing several particulars which she pretended to see in the lower parlor, she walked up stairs, and named the persons she saw in one of the front rooms. After a moment of considerable attention, she said that she saw a little boy sleeping in his cradle and in very good health ; that there was another child, a pretty little girl, (whom she said she had never seen before,) laying on her mother's lap, and now in a state of high fever, caused by a severe cold, settled all over her ; that this child coughed a little, and felt a great oppression towards the upper part of her chest ; that her throat begun to feel sore ; that she had already taken some medicine, some kind of white powder, (she thought it was a salt,) and that *her parents were now talking about giving her a sweat.* (It was at that moment 9 o'clock by our watches.) She added *that it would be necessary to apply prompt and energetic remedies to stop the fever ; that if it was not immediately stopped, it would very soon turn into a scarlet fever, and that the child would then be in great danger.* After the examination was over, I went to Dr. Manchester's house, and inquired very particularly about the disease of the child. Every thing stated by Miss G. was correct ; not only concerning the symptoms, but also the medicine the child had taken, and the talking about *giving her a sweat*, at the very time I have above mentioned ! The treatment prescribed by the somnambulist was not applied ; *the fever assumed the scarlet type on the morning of the next, and the child died three days afterwards.* Among those who may testify for the truth of the above statement, I will refer to Samuel Lord, John Street, Esqrs. and Mr. Bates, an English gentleman, all residing at Pawtucket.

So sure is Miss Gleason's power of diagnostics, so profound is the impression made on her by the diseases she has examined, that, if a single lock of the hair of one of *her patients* is presented to her, even three or four weeks after the examination has taken place, she will describe the disease as though the person was present, and even find out who he is, and where he is, merely by holding those hairs against her epigastrium, and feeling them with her fingers. She has been frequently submitted to this test by Mr. A. Wright, whose certificate has already been presented, and by myself, in presence of a great many witnesses! In making such experiments, we are careful not to say a word that might lead her to give correct answers; we are also cautious not to tell her, before she is put asleep, what we mean to have her to do, while in somnambulism! The results of these experiments have been almost invariably successful, and sometimes perfectly astonishing. She has also frequently been able, *in a state of high lucidity*, to describe accurately a disease, by holding in her hand some hair belonging to a person she had never seen nor heard of before! I might offer a number of such instances under my personal observation, but I prefer to quote one out of Mr. Wright's practice, as no one will suspect collusion or deception in the case!

Dr. Huntington, of Lowell, having expressed to Mr. W. his desire to have a patient of his examined by Miss G. while in somnambulism, Mr. W. requested him to procure some hair from the person, and send it carefully folded in a paper, to his house, where Miss Gleason was on a visit for a few days. The patient is a very respectable lady of Lowell, and an entire stranger to Miss G. Mr. Wright having put the somnambulist asleep, began to converse with her about a Mrs. C. whom she had examined some weeks past: while she

was fairly engaged in talking about that lady's case, Mr. W. handed her the paper containing the hair, and requested her to see what was in it. She immediately applied it to her forehead, and, after some moments of attention, said it was hair. She then took the lock out of the paper, and, having carefully felt it, said *it was not Mrs. C.'s hair!* that the hair belonged to a person who was an entire stranger to her, and who lived only within half a mile, (true,) whereas Mrs. C. lived three miles! That, however, the person who owned the hair was a lady; that she was not well by any means; that she had been out of health for several years; that the symptoms of her disease were a *great wakefulness*, headache, pain in her right side, proceeding from an affection of the liver, poorness of the blood, and general debility, which prevented her from walking. This description was remarkably accurate, as I afterwards heard from Mr. W. and other intimate friends of the lady. But the most surprising is this:—After finishing her examination, Mr. W. took the hair back from Miss Gleason's hands, and awoke her. Not a word was told to her while in the wakeful state about the case she had been examining. On the evening of the next day, Mr. W. together with Miss G., called on a distinguished individual, then, lodging for a few days only, at the Merrimack house, for the purpose of making an experiment. Among those who were present, I will mention Dr. Huntington, his brother the Attorney of the County of Essex; Judge Williams, of Taunton, Mass., and several ladies, among whom was the owner of the hair, examined by Miss G. on the night previous. Miss G. having been put into the magnetic sleep, the patient, about whom not a word had been said, was put in communication with the somnambulist, with the request that she should investigate the lady's health. After a

minute or two of deep concentration, Miss G. said, "*This is not a new thing to me!* I have already seen this person; I have examined her!" "No, you are mistaken, you never saw me before!" "I know better; *I saw you last night, through your hair!* and I have nothing more to tell concerning your case." She then, at the request of the lady, repeated what she had already said on the night previous. The patient and her friends, who were present declared that the description was very correct. Every one in the room was in the greatest amazement.*

I might refer to upwards of a hundred patients of both sexes, the certificates of whom I have in my possession; but the proposed limits of this work do not permit me to offer any more for the present. I will only beg the reader to bear in mind, that should he deny the statements above presented, he would consider as liars, not myself alone, but several other intelligent and disinterested of their countrymen and fellow-citizens, who have successfully magnetized Miss Gleason, and certified to the correctness of these statements.

Analogy between Mineral and Animal Magnetism.

Being desirous of knowing whether there was any analogy between Mineral and Animal Magnetism, I made on Miss Gleason the following series of experiments to satisfy my mind about it. Miss G. being in the magnetic sleep, and her eyes kept shut by the hands of a bystander, placed behind her, a magnet was carried slowly over either arm, without touching it. Soon convulsive motions were manifested in the muscles, and followed by a well-marked movement of the hand, and

* I was at Nashua, N. H., when this examination was made.

sometimes of the whole limb, towards the magnet. This movement would cease as soon as the magnet was removed, and manifested itself again at its approach.

Fearing that the influence might have been derived from the hand of the individual who held the magnet, rather than from the instrument itself, I suggested another plan. The somnambulist's eyes being kept shut, as above described, and not a word about what was going to be done, having been uttered in her presence, in order not to *excite a mischievous and disturbing participation of the imagination*, a book was placed horizontally on her lap, and a pair of scissors, of a considerable size, very carefully laid on the book, the points directed towards either the left or the right hand. In the course of a quarter, sometimes of half a minute, some visible convulsive motions were developed in the fingers, and immediately followed by a distinct movement of the hand; sometimes of two fingers only, towards the scissors; these being drawn back a little, without the least noise, the hand still continued to move towards them, and if the scissors were entirely withdrawn from the book, the hand dropped down and remained perfectly still. Then, a silver or lead spoon, a piece of wood, or any other article of the same size, was placed on the book, no effect was manifested; the scissors were laid down again, and the same motions as above described were produced; if, while the fingers were moving towards the steel, a lead or silver spoon was suddenly presented, by a bystander, the effect was counteracted, and the fingers pulled back again. These experiments were repeated in every possible way, and were highly satisfactory to those who witnessed them. In order to obtain more powerful effects, we resumed experimenting with a strong magnet, and in such a manner as to obtain some conclusive results. Two

chairs were placed near the somnambulist's knees, and both her arms laid on the arms of a rocking chair, her hands hanging down on each side. The magnet was then carefully placed on either chair, at about 6 inches distance from the corresponding hand. Soon the same twitchings were perceived in the muscles; the fingers stretched themselves and became stiff; by and by the whole limb moved forwards, as though attracted by the instrument. If the magnet was then suddenly withdrawn, the movement of the hand was stopped at once, and the arm fell down, as insensible and powerless as before. The magnet being placed on the opposite side, similar effects were produced, and those effects invariably ceased when the cause of action was removed. Such experiments must have been satisfactory, as there was no possibility of deception—the somnambulist's eyes being carefully closed, not a word being spoken, and it being so easy to shift the position of the magnet. Furthermore, to show the analogy of the two magnetisms, a bystander carried his hand, at some distance, over the somnambulist's hands, and, invariably, results similar to those produced by the magnet or the scissors (steel) were obtained. Now, to show the superiority of the human will over the mineral or electromagnetic fluid,—while the somnambulist's hand was decidedly moving, as though attracted towards the magnet, the magnetizer placed his own hand on the opposite side, with the *firm intention* of counteracting the movement already impressed, and the movement ceased; further still, if the magnetizer *willed* that the somnambulist's hand should draw back towards his own and grasp it, the required effect was immediately produced. These curious experiments were tried a great many times, and in all possible ways, without, so far as I can remember, a single failure. Some persons will

object that they might have been an effect of the imagination of the somnambulist, who became aware of what was going on *through a mental action* exercised by the magnetizer. No one is more persuaded than I am of the prodigious power of the imagination in somnambulists, and of the reality of a mental influence exercised on them by the magnetizer, or the person in communication. Therefore, I can only say that I have taken all possible care to obtain from the above experiments such results as might show the genuine effects of steel, and of the magnet, on the human nervous system, during the state of somnambulism, *independently of any other cause.*

I have omitted a circumstance worthy of notice: three of four times we kept the magnet in the same situation on the chair, until the somnambulist's hand reached it; her fingers would then cling to it with an extraordinary force: on asking her what it was, she invariably answered that it was a *man's hand!* She wished to know who it was, and observed that *this man* was cold-hearted, and earnestly begged me to take him off from her! In holding to the magnet, she appeared to suffer very much; the whole arm twitched, sometimes in a violent manner, and when the instrument was pulled by force from her hand, her fingers remained exceedingly rigid and stretched for some time.*

I wish that some magnetizers would repeat these experiments, on their somnambulists, and let the public know the results. I see that the Principal of the Quaker College, at Providence, has already tried the effect

* Among those who have witnessed and conducted these experiments, I will refer to the members of my class, in New Bedford, whose certificate I shall present in the subsequent pages. Those gentlemen are known to be the most respectable citizens of New Bedford.

of the magnet on his somnambulist, and I refer the reader to the account given by him, in the notes placed at the end of the second part of *Deluze's Practical Instruction*, translated by Thos. C. Hartshorn, Esq. Experiments should be made, also, to ascertain whether the human nervous system, during the state of magnetic somnambulism, can exercise any action on the magnetic needle, or the electrometer. I have not yet tried any thing of the kind, but I mean to do it, as soon as an opportunity will present itself.

SECTION V.

Lowell, Mass.

Mr. Alexander Wright, agent of the carpet manufactory, is, I believe, the only person in this place who was perseverant and earnest in investigating the claims of Animal Magnetism. I have already presented a long certificate signed by him, in which he briefly states the results of his experiments, and pronounces, after careful examination, Animal Magnetism to be a *true science*. Those who are well acquainted with Mr. Wright, will give to his opinion its due weight and value. His reputation as an intelligent, upright, honorable man, is surpassed by that of no other in the community in which he lives. I hope that he will be induced, at some future period, and when his occupations allow him, to give to the public a detailed account of some of his experiments. They will show that Mr. Wright unites, to a profound sense of delicacy and benevolence, a talent of observation, and shrewdness of mind, which are not, by any means, frequently met with, even in the conceited *esprits forts* who so boldly deny the reality of Animal Magnetism, because they consider all the professors of this science as fools, who have suffered themselves to be imposed upon by some cunning women! Among those whom Mr. A. Wright has succeeded in putting into the magnetic sleep, I will name two, who are, at least, in the opinion of all those

who have heard of them, above suspicion of deception. Capt. Calvert, an overseer in the Lowell carpet manufactory, and Samuel H. M——, Esq., one of the most intelligent, active, and popular lawyers of the same city. So complete was the magnetic sleep into which Mr. M—— was thrown, contrary to his expectation, and against his own will, that he is now as much convinced of the truth of Magnetism, as of his own existence! His family, who had been hitherto skeptical on the matter, could hardly believe their own eyes, on seeing him so profoundly plunged in the mysterious slumber, and insensible to all external impressions! How much greater was their amazement on seeing him come to the natural state again, by a few insignificant gestures made by the operator at some distance from his face!

Certificate of Dr. E. Bartlett, mayor of the city of Lowell, and professor at the medical institution of Pittsfield, Berkshire county.

During my residence at Lowell, I performed a series of experiments expressly for the mayor of the city, Dr. Elisha Bartlett, whose reputation as a scholar and a physician ranks among the very first in New England. The following is a certificate he gave me, after witnessing my experiments:—

Lowell, March 31, 1837.

Mons. Poyen,—

"*Dear Sir*,—I am perfectly willing to comply with your request, that I should state my opinion of Animal Magnetism, so far as I have been able to form one from what I have seen of your experiments. You will remember that on the evening when these experiments were made, (the 6th inst.) at the house of our friend

Alexander Wright, Esq., the only persons were Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Miss Gleason, yourself, and the writer. The experiments were made under my own direction, and they were successful, with the exception of one only. If there was no concealed understanding between the parties, they showed a very extraordinary and inexplicable power of the magnetizer over the magnetized; and as to the presence of any thing like an attempt to juggle or cheat, I can only say that I could discover no evidence of any such thing. So far as my limited means have justified me in forming an opinion upon the subject generally, it seems to me that it is worthy the further investigation of scientific men, and that this investigation should be prosecuted in a very careful and cautious manner. I take pleasure in adding, and this without any solicitation on your part, that so far as my acquaintance with you enables me to judge, I have never had any reason to doubt the entire honesty and sincerity of your own conduct and opinions in this matter.

I am, very respectfully, yours,

ELISHA BARTLETT."

In the foregoing letter, Dr. Bartlett says, that the experiments were made under his own direction; that they were all successful but one; that he could not detect any collusion; that, finally, he believes me to be an honest man, and perfectly sincere in my pursuits. Yet, he says, also, "*If there was no concealed understanding between the parties*, &c." This, reader, will appear to you as an *inconsistency*. Perhaps it is so; but you must reflect that *great men* can never be too cautious; it is but just that they should keep a little crack open, to effect their escape, in case that the *great collective being*, from whom *popularity and honors* emanate—I

mean *the public*—should make a call upon them, and inquire of their opinions!

I can affirm, however, that of all the great men of the day, Dr. B. is one of the most liberal, amiable, ready to examine any matter of science whatever. Since writing the above certificate, he has acquired stronger evidence than he had then, of the truth of magnetism. He has *himself magnetized*, to the satisfac tion of his mind, a respectable young lady, at the house of our common friend Alexander Wright, Esq. I hope that when the science is *well established*, he will fearlessly, and generously, publish what he has observed, and what he believes! I hope that all other great men, who now keep their convictions within their own bosom, will also bear testimony to the truth, when the stormy clouds, which are now hanging over our heads, shall have passed over.

From the Lowell Advertiser of March 31*st*, 1837.

One of the undersigned, Mr. Alexander Wright, agent of the carpet manufactory of this city, feeling a lively interest in Animal Magnetism, and wishing to have in his possession some facts of a very conclusive character, to oppose to the incredulity which generally prevails on this subject, asked me to make a few experiments at his own house, where he intended to invite, to witness them, some influential gentlemen, well known in this community for their cautiousness and talent of observation, but, at the same time, for their fairness and independence of mind, and who would be willing to testify for the facts that they would see.

I assented to Mr. Wright's proposition with much pleasure and eagerness. Saturday last, 25th inst., was

the day appointed for the experiments. The gentlemen invited were, Dr. J. Fox, Dr. W. Duesbury, Messrs. G. Brownell, superintendent of the machine shop, G. Motley, agent of the Appleton Mills, Ch. Tilden, Maj. S. A. Coburn, the city clerk, E. Case, the Postmaster, J. Nesmith, L. Huntress, the editor of the Lowell Courier, and R. Southwick.

According to Mr. Wright's suggestion, Miss G., the somnambulist, was to be put to sleep, at a time prescribed by the committee of gentlemen, and in a manner of which she could not be aware by any of her senses. In order to accomplish this purpose, the following plan was adopted. On the day above mentioned, towards four o'clock, Mr. Wright resorted to my lodgings, and took with him, in his carriage, Miss G. alone, who was, says he, going to spend the afternoon at his house with a few other ladies. Before retiring, he said that he would come again, and take me at another moment, in the evening.

Indeed, towards twenty minutes after seven o'clock, Mr. W. called for me in his chaise. In order to avoid that Miss G. should have any knowledge of my arrival at the house, Mr. W. introduced me therein through the back door, which is situated far from the parlor, in which the somnambulist was sitting, together with the other ladies. I entered, stepping as lightly as possible, into a room where the gentlemen were assembled for nearly one hour. I did not even bid good evening verbally to the company, in order to avoid giving any motive of suspicion whatever. The room in which we were was separated from the other parlor by a folding-door, closed so tightly that no ray of light could penetrate through the crack. A few moments after my entering, a gentleman handed to me a bit of paper with these words written on it: "Please to commence mag-

netizing Miss G. from this room, four minutes after reading this." I stood in silence near the fire-place, while the general conversation and moving about was going on. It is essential to state here, that among the ladies present, in the next parlor, one, only, Mrs. Wright, was informed of the plan: she had not spoken a word about it. The other ladies, as well as Miss G. herself, were expecting that I would come in through the front door, and enter their apartment together with the committee of gentlemen, in order to perform the experiment. Therefore, that which took place subsequently was entirely unexpected on their part. At the prescribed time, I stepped very lightly and stood at about one foot before the folding-door. A gentleman who had been looking, with great care not to be seen, through the window, from without, on purpose to ascertain where Miss G. was sitting, handed to me a bit of paper with these words: "She is sitting at about three feet from the door, her back turned toward you." Then I began to operate with great energy; yet it was very difficult for me to keep my mind attentive to the object and strongly directed on a single point, on account of the moving and conversation that was going on both behind and before me; for the ladies, being not aware of the operation, continued talking loud in the other room. After 8 minutes of action, I stopped for some moments. A gentleman, who had been looking through the window, told me that the patient was leaning her head against her hand—that she appeared very drowsy, and was making evident efforts to keep awake. Another person indicated to me the precise place where she was sitting. I resumed the operation, and continued it for about ten or twelve minutes. I ceased again, as I felt very much fatigued. Then a lady, Mrs. W., came out and told us that Miss G.'s eyes

were shut, and that she could not answer the questions put to her: we learnt, also, from Mrs. W. (and it was afterwards confirmed by the other ladies,) that Miss G. had felt sleepy in a very few minutes after I had commenced magnetizing her; that she had even made an apology for it; that, finally, she would have gone to sleep very soon, if the other ladies had not tried to keep her awake by talking constantly to her. Immediately after hearing the foregoing particulars, the gentlemen entered the other apartment and found the patient on the rocking-chair, her eyes shut, and in the posture of a person quietly delivered up to the natural sleep. They shook her hands, tickled her face, spoke to her, but without producing any effect. She was, indeed, in the magnetic sleep. Every one of the company declared that this experiment had been very fairly done, and was perfectly satisfactory. After it was sufficiently ascertained that Miss G. was in the magnetic state, and could not answer any body, I approached her, and proposed to her, in a low voice, several questions, which she answered readily, and correctly. A few moments afterwards the gentlemen proceeded to the following experiments:—

A bit of paper was handed to me, with this command written on it: "Make her give you her hand." A gentleman standing behind her, passed his hands over both her eyes, in order to prevent collusion, supposing that there could be any. I stood at about one foot distant from the somnambulist, stretched my hand towards her, without touching, and requested her, mentally, to shake hands with me. Soon she moved her fingers, opened her hand, and grasped at mine. This experiment was declared very clear and satisfactory.

The gentlemen wishing to see the same performed again, for their complete satisfaction, I repeated the ex-

periment with equal success. I noticed, however, that this time no bandage was held over the somnambulist's eyes. A gentle an told me afterwards that this same experiment had been tried over again, in order to know whether the same effects could be produced without the application of the hands on Miss G.'s eyes, as it had been objected by some that the application might have been a signal agreed upon between me and her.

A few moments after, another piece of paper was passed to me with the words "make her open her eyes, standing behind her." I took the position in perfect silence, and without moving. In the first place, the somnambulist put her head straight, and said, as if she had heard a voice, "*Speak a little louder!*" (every one present may testify that I did not move my lips.) Then she opened her lids and kept them so, perfectly still for some moments, although a lamp was brought near them, and several quick motions made, in rapid succession, towards them, by a gentleman. Then I passed behind, and caused the eyes to close again by a *mental action*.

The somnambulist having asked for some drink, Mr. N. took a tumbler and presented it to her, even put it in her hand, but she took no notice of him. The tumbler was handed to me, and, standing at about two feet from Miss G., I requested her, mentally, to take it; immediately she stretched her arm and grasped at it. After she had finished drinking, some gentlemen tried to take the tumbler from her; but she would not give it up to them, and pulled away their hand. I, standing on the same place, requested her, mentally, to give it to me, which she did instantly.

A gentleman handed to me a piece of paper on which this command was written: "Present to her the tumbler again, in willing that the water should be *Rum* for

her." Accordingly, I magnetized the glass a minute or two, and requested, mentally, the somnambulist to take it, which she did immediately: after she had drank a few swallows, I asked her what it was; she answered, "Wine! will it make me dizzy?"

A gentleman having manifested the desire to be examined by Miss G., on his state of health, I put him in communication with her. She first took his pulse and said how it was! Then carried her right hand lightly over his chest and sides, her eyes remaining perfectly shut and still. Then she said that this gentleman was not very sick; that, however, he must be subject to pains in his head; that his liver was affected a little, the upper and posterior parts of it being very light-colored, (two shades lighter than the rest of the organ;) that, in consequence of the state of the liver, he must have pains in his right side; that his lungs and stomach were sound; that his blood was neither of the best nor of the worst kind; that he was subject to jaundice. Q. "Have I any pain in my left side?" A. "I have not looked at it yet." Then, after touching the part, she said, in shaking her head, "Yes, you have pain in this side, but not so much as in the right. You ought to take something to physic your blood and cure your liver!" Then the somnambulist indicated several remedies, not chemical ones, but extracted from the vegetable kingdom, and which she might have heard of before, as they are often used in this country. The prescriptions were declared, by the medical gentlemen then present, very proper, both for the nature of the plants, the quantity, and the manner in which they should be taken.

The somnambulist, making a deep sigh, and passing her hand on the pit of her stomach, with an expression of pain, said, "I believe that I am now a great deal

sicker than you are," and left the gentleman's hand. Then I asked her what was the gentleman's complexion? "Dark!"

The consultation being finished, Mr. —— got up and declared that he was much satisfied with the somnambulist's answers; that, indeed, he had pains, at times, in his head, but more particularly in his right side, which sometimes perplexed him very much; that he was subject to jaundice, being naturally very bilious! Mr. —— is of a very dark complexion.

Shortly after this last experiment, I announced that I was going to awake the somnambulist. I approached her, and told her to awake in six minutes, precisely. She answered, "Very well." Then I retired the length of the room, and asked, in a very low voice, a gentleman to tell me which arm he wished I should strike with paralysis? "The right." While another person was holding a bandage over Miss G.'s eyes, I carried my hand, without touching, four or five times over her right arm, with the intention of paralyzing it. I ceased. We waited in silence. As the needle was making the sixth minute, by the watch of a bystander, the somnambulist began to move, and stretched her left arm—the right did not stir. Within half of a minute she opened her eyes, and appeared perfectly awake. Then she moved again her left arm, rubbed her eyes and forehead—the right remained still. Agentleman approached, put her several questions, which she answered, and requested her to shake hands with him; she presented her left hand. "I want the right," said the gentleman. "I cannot stir it; it is powerless and insensible, sir."

A few moments having elapsed, I restored the paralyzed arm, simply by making a few passes over it.

Such are the facts that took place. And I may af-

firm, that in the opinion of every candid and honest-hearted man, they are conclusive enough to allow my estimable friend, Alexander Wright, to applaud himself for not having blindly yielded to the general incredulity, and for having given his earnest and disinterested support to a science that will prove hereafter so useful in many important ways. C. P.

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"The undersigned certify that they have attended the experiments in Animal Magnetism, performed at Mr. Alexander Wright's house, on the 25th inst.; that the statement above presented, by Mons. Ch. Poyen, is correct, and that it was not possible for them to detect any collusion, whatever, between him and the magnetized person. They also declare that Mons. P. conducted himself in a manner creditable to himself, and calculated to inspire confidence in the integrity of his moral character.

Alex. Wright,	W. Duesbury,
George Brownell,	Geo. Motley,
Samuel A. Coburn,	Leonard Huntress,
Chas. L. Tilden,	John Nesmith."
Royal Southwick,	

—

Certificate of E. Case, Postmaster, of Lowell, Mass.

Lowell, March 29th, 1837.

"To Mons. Ch. Poyen.

"*Sir*,—Having been requested by you to express an opinion of your experiments in Animal Magnetism, at the house of Alexander Wright, Esq., on the evening of the 25th inst., I will cheerfully and frankly state that I attended on said evening, at Mr. Wright's request, with the understanding that, if desired, the opinion you ask should be given.

"So far as I know or believe, the experiments were fairly conducted, and, with one exception, entirely successful. There was not the slightest appearance of collusion between the magnetizer and the person magnetized. The experiments were all entirely new to me, and before giving an opinion of the *nature*, or even *cause* of "the magnetic sleep," I should wish to make further observations. It was, however, something different, in its appearance and effects, from any thing I had before witnessed. Yours, truly,

ELIPHALET CASE."

SECTION VI.

Nashua, N. H.

Nashua, April 29th, 1837.

Among the persons who have been magnetized with success, during my residence at Nashua, N. H., I will mention Mrs. M. M., from Chester, Vermont. This lady, on her journey to Boston, had stopped for a few days at Capt. Adams's tavern, where I had myself taken lodgings. She is a relative to the landlady, Mrs. Adams, and was an entire stranger to me. After a few moments of acquaintance with Mrs. M., I formed the opinion, from her temperament and external appearance, that she would be easily affected by Animal Magnetism. I proposed to try the operation on her-which she readily granted. I must observe here, that she knew nothing of this science, having never heard nor read of it previous to my conversation with her. She was magnetized in presence of her husband and two or three ladies, her cousins. According to my expectations, she was very soon affected: it did not take me longer than 8 or 9 minutes to put her in a sound sleep, characterized, as usual, by the complete insensibility of the external senses, and the incapacity of the muscular system. I proposed to her several questions, which she appeared to have heard, as she she tried, but in vain to answer,—her lips would move, but without forming any audible sound. This sleep lasted half an

hour: I caused it to cease by the usual motions with my hand, made before the face and chest of the patient. Hon. G. C. Atherton, Esq. had witnessed this first experiment, as he was introduced into the room immediately after the lady was put to sleep.

Mrs. M. was magnetized again, and with an equal success, on the evening of the same day, in presence of a numerous assembly, and awaked in the same manner as above mentioned.

A third operation on the same person took place the next morning, towards 10 o'clock, in presence of the ladies of the house, G. C. Atherton, C. Cutter, M. D., and three of the clergymen of the place. In this experiment the patient answered audibly and distinctly my questions, without awaking. Also, at the approach of my fingers towards her hand and arm, convulsive motions were produced almost instantly in those parts. This last experiment was repeated with equal success; and to the greatest satisfaction of the gentlemen present.

Mrs. M. having left Nashua in the afternoon, I could not continue my operations on her. But a few days afterwards, on her return from Boston, she stopped again at Capt. Adams's, and the experiments were resumed by me. Mrs. M. was also magnetized three times by Dr. C. Cutter, of this place, and invariably the same results were obtained. The convulsive motions of the arms and hands, at the approach of the magnetizer's fingers, were produced more and more easily, in proportion as they were more often repeated. This phenomenon took place, even when a bandage was placed over the patient's eyes; and they were invariably produced in the arm towards which the action was directed. They would also invariably cease as soon as the action was interrupted. This case, together with

three or four others of about the same character, contributed much in establishing the truth of magnetism in Nashua. It is almost useless to say, that Mrs. M., after awaking, had not the least recollection of what had transpired during the operation. C. P.

"I certify that I have attended to the magnetic experiments performed on my wife, and that the above statement is correct. WILLIAM MARSHALL."

The following remarks and statements were published some time ago, in the newspapers, by Doct. C. Cutter, with the permission of whom, we extract them, to corroborate what has been already written in the preceding pages :—

"ANIMAL MAGNETISM. As this is a subject new to most persons, curious and interesting in its details, and to many incomprehensible, and consequently to them apparently a deception, those who become its advocates will have bestowed upon them, in liberal measure, the epithets, impostors, quacks, and charlatans. This has ever been the case relative to those who advanced and advocated novel truths. Galileo was proscribed and condemned as a criminal for simply stating the truth concerning the solar system. Harvey, an eminent physician of London, discovered and published the true theory of the circulation of the blood in the human system—yet for this truth he was rewarded with slander and ridicule, by the physicians of London, so liberally as to destroy his extensive practice. Such was the conduct of the medical faculty of Paris towards those who defended and used Animal Magnetism in that city some

fifty years since ; and I shall be disappointed if my reward is not liberal in this respect, as I now could name some in this town and vicinity, who are practising physicians who assert that it is quackery and deception ; yet, when they have been invite dto witness the effects of magnetism, examine persons in a state of somnambulism, and be present at the examination of patients by somnambules, they have refused, with this reason, 'I am a member of the medical society.' Now, I am not a member of the medical society, but I have received a medical diploma, and have been invited to join the medical society, which I have declined doing. Denouncing any thing without examination is not acting with candor, intelligence, benevolence, and charity—as by so doing, truth has not free course, and thus injury is done to society. All are interested in the cause of truth, as all truth is of value.

"Relative to magnetism, examine it before approving or condemning it. Are not all bound to do this? Will any one slander and ridicule in place of candid examination? We presume not. Concerning the utility of magnetism, I will now say a few words. Let us inquire first, what are its effects on the system, &c. After having magnetized many diseased persons, I shall answer that its common effect is *general tranquillity of the system, removing pain, and causing very free sweating*, and in some cases a peculiar sleep, called somnambulism. With candor I would ask, if tranquillity and free sweating are not useful in almost every disease. Hence its value in the treatment and cure of disease.

"European physicians, among whom may be named Rostan, Georget, Viery, assert that it will speedily cure the following complaints: Scrofula, obstructions of the glands, piles, chronic inflammation, gout, rheumatism, inflammation of the throat and eyes, hemorrhage, epi-

lepsy, hysterics, mania, headache, toothache, all kinds nervous pain, dyspepsia, cholic, pains in the stomach, vomiting, asthma, palpitations of the heart, cough, deafness, paralysis, tic doloreux, &c. In many of the above diseases I have used it, and found it perfectly successful. Out of many cases, I shall only present the following, as the persons are now in Nashua.

"*Case 1st.* 'For eight years I have been afflicted with a partial palsy of my right arm, rendering it nearly useless in labor. During most of this time, my health has been poor, having had pains in my chest, cough, shortness of breath, pain in the back of the head and neck, for some years. Some months since, I was magnetized by Dr. Calvin Cutter, of this village. It produced a tendency to sleep, great heat in the skin, lungs, and palsied arm. It was repeated four times. My arm was restored to its strength and feeling, the pain in my head and lungs, together with my cough, was removed—my health is now better than for some years. As I took no medicine, I must impute the benefit to magnetism. ELEAZER BARRETT.'

Nashua, Sept. 4th, 1837.

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"*Case 2d.* 'For more than two years I have been afflicted with pain in my stomach, side, and back, to so great an extent as to incapacitate me for labor a considerable part of the time, during which time my food has usually distressed me, after eating. Some months since I was magnetized by Dr. Cutter. At the second magnetizing, the pain in my stomach, head and back, was removed; appetite became good, and food ceased to cause distress. I took no medicine. Since magnetizing, my health has been better than for many months previous. FLORA FULLER.'

Nashua, Sept. 6th, 1837.

"*Case 3d.* 'This certifies, that four years since I became diseased in the back part of my head, attended with much pain, and want of feeling in one side of my neck, to so great an extent that I was unable to turn my head one side. This has been gradually increasing. I have been under medical treatment from several physicians, without receiving any benefit. Some weeks since I was magnetized by Dr. Cutter, of Nashua. It removed the pain, the sensibility and mobility of the neck were restored, attended with free sweating of the diseased side of the head and neck. This was effected in the space of one week, without any medicine whatever. SUSAN HARTSHORN.'

Nashua, Sept. 1st, 1837.

"*Case 4th.* A lady, now living in my family, about two years since, became diseased with a large ulcer upon the ancle. Its diameter was something like two inches, attended with constant pain, and swelling of the foot. She applied to several physicians in this town and vicinity, but received no benefit. Some months since I magnetized the diseased ancle and foot. The pain and much of the redness was immediately removed, and the ulcer rapidly healed. The ulcer is now well.

"The effect of magnetism, in removing the inflammation around this ulcer, has been witnessed by many, among whom may be named Dr. Bartlett, Mayor of Lowell, and Dr. Dearborn, of this town. Since magnetizing, she receives no inconvenience from walking. Formerly it caused excessive pain.

"Other cases might be given, of citizens now living, but space will not permit. Should any individual desire, reference would be made to many other cases.

"Some may ask, what is this Magnetic Sleep, or somnambulism, concerning which there is some talk?

Is it of any benefit? I answer that it is useful, when there is restlessness and want of sleep. But the most curious phenomenon of somnambulism is the faculty which some have of correctly locating and describing disease in persons of whom the somnambule had no previous knowledge. If this be true, it may be of value in the treatment of disease. Ignorance of the true disease probably is the cause why good physicians fail in relieving and curing many cases of disease. This is illustrated in the case of many, by their going to one physician who tells them their disease is in the head, and treats it accordingly. The patient, after many weeks, being no better, calls upon another doctor, who tells him his disease is in the lungs, and so treats the case. No relief being obtained, another member of the faculty is consulted, who concludes that the liver is the cause of trouble, consequently he prescribes for a liver complaint. Nothing bettered by this course of treatment, advice is obtained from a fourth, who is quite certain the stomach is in fault—speedy relief is promised; but here disappointment again awaits the patient. Almost in despair, relief is still sought by obtaining advice of another distinguished member of the healing art, who wisely determines that all his brethren have been mistaken, and that the blood needs purifying and strengthening, and then the patient will be quite well. Relief is promised; but the wretched patient learns that promises are one thing, and performances another. Now, when good and well educated physicians differ in opinion, as above specified, it is clear they do not know what ails the patient. And is not the want of certain knowledge of the disease the cause of the ill success in the treatment of many patients? But a diseased person may ask if the information of a somnambule can be depended upon? We

think it may. I have witnessed from forty to fifty examinations of patients by a somnambule in this village, and in all the cases, the somnambule did correctly point out the seat of disease, without a question being asked, or any information being given to the somnambule. In all the cases, except one, the patients were unknown to the somnambule. In several cases, tumors were pointed out correctly, although not perceivable by common observers. As it is often said, if a somnambule can point the site of a tumor or sore, it would be conclusive, I will detail a case or two.

"*Case 5th.* Miss Priscilla Baldwin, of this town, was examined by a somnambule, (Miss C. A. Gleason,) some months since. This examination was in presence of the Rev. Mr. Pratt, James Osgood, Esq., Dr. Parker, and others. Passing over the general examination, which was apparently correct, the somnambule pointed out a tumor in the side, and said that it had an oval cavity, filled with a yellowish fluid. Subsequently, Miss B. was examined by Dr. J. C. Warren, who said it was a wen, and advised its removal. I then opened the tumor, and it discharged something like half a pint of yellowish fluid, and, upon examination, I found the cavity to be an oval one. The somnambule had no knowledge of Miss B. previous to the examination.

"*Case 6th.* Mr. Moses Saunders, of Hudson, was examined by a somnambule, now at my house, in presence of Dea. Reuben Greely. The somnambule pointed out the exact situation of a tumor in the bowels, which could not be seen by common observers, except by manual examination. The examination of this case in other respects, was apparently correct. The somnambule had no knowledge of this case, previous to the examination.

"*Case 7th.* Sept. 10*th*, 1837. Without a word being said to any individual in my house, I requested permission to magnetize the somnambule, now living with me, for a head-ache. While in a magnetic sleep, by appointment, Mr. Samuel F. Jenness came to my house with Miss Martha Dunn, who has been deaf and dumb for twenty-two years. This was said to have been caused by a disease, when two years old. I requested the somnambule to examine the head of Miss D. After a little time, she said she saw a hard mass, of a reddish yellow color, connected with the interior of the brain, and that Miss D. could not hear or talk. Of this the somnambule was certain, while an equal degree of positiveness was expressed that Miss D. could see and smell. On the following day the somnambule, when asked by me, said that she had no knowledge of the cause of deafness, and had never been in company with a deaf person before.

"Aug. 16th, 1837. I put a person, living in my family, into a magnetic sleep—this person having been magnetized several times, and having examined many individuals afflicted with diseases of various kinds. In about half an hour, Dr. Bartlett, the mayor of Lowell, and lady, called, by previous appointment. I then sent for Mrs. Collins, who had a child, about nine months old, that for four months had been gradually losing the power of sight, by reason of cataracts that were perceptible in both eyes. The child being asleep, was examined by the somnambule, who soon said that the child could not see much, and that there was something in the eye that prevented the child from seeing. The somnambule further said that the nerves of the eye were diseased, and were the cause of the disease in the eye. Mrs. Collins has had other children who became blind from cataracts, and who died at an early age,

from disease in the head. No mention was made to the somnambule, or any person in my family, that this child was to be examined. The only person to whom I named it, were Dr. Bartlett and Mrs. Collins. On this and the other cases examined by the somnambule, which have been communicated, I make no comment. Let the candid reader decide whether she has the power of locating and describing disease with accuracy. Names of all individuals examined will be given to any person asking.

"In the foregoing lines I have not attempted to sustain magnetism by reason or analogy, as I think that this, as well as other sciences, must be sustained by well authenticated, observed facts, and in no other way. C. CUTTER, M. D."

Nashua, Oct. 4th, 1837.

Dear Sir,—I very cheerfully comply with your request that I should furnish you with a brief statement of an interesting case of magnetic somnambulism, which has occurred in this village, under my own observation. The subject of these operations was a young lady, well known in this place, and a near relative of mine, in whom, moreover, I have the utmost confidence. The operator is myself; therefore, I cannot have any doubt about the reality of the phenomena that I propose to mention. They were, besides, of such a nature as to carry conviction to the mind of the most skeptical person. The young lady, the subject of these experiments, lives in my house, and I had the opportunity of magnetizing her several times. 1st., The duration of the operation to put her in the magnetic sleep, has diminished from thirty to seven minutes. 2d., This magnetic

sleep, or state, is characterized in her, as is, I believe, most generally the case, by a suspension of the action of the outward senses. She hears nothing, feels nothing, &c. Her eyes are closely shut, and the eyeballs, when the lids are opened by a bystander's fingers, are seen turned upwards, and seem as though they were convulsed. I will observe, however, that her external insensibility is, in some measure, under the control of my will; if, for instance, I will her to feel the tickling on her lips or cheeks with a feather, she immediately feels it; if, then, I will the contrary, she ceases to feel. If I will her to hear another person besides me, she hears him immediately, and answers all his questions. If I will her to cease conversing, she ceases, &c.

"3d. She appears evidently very sensible to the action of my will. According to my mental request, she performs also various motions. It is useless to state that in experiments of this sort, I do not resort to language to convey my volition to her.

"4th. The most remarkable of her faculties, is, that of seeing, her eyes remaining still perfectly closed. Her power of vision is so great, that she sees as well in a room completely dark, as when there is light before her face. In fact, light, as we call it, seems to be of no use at all in the operation of seeing, since she recognizes objects, with the greatest accuracy, through opaque bodies. I will quote an instance or two. In order to test her faculty of vision, a short time ago, I caused all the lamps to be removed from the room; several persons were present, but the obscurity was so great, that it was impossible for us to distinguish each other. Then I handed several newspapers to the somnambulist, and requested her to read their titles; and she readily read 'The Herald of Freedom,' the 'Sat-

urday Evening Courier,' the 'Boston Morning Post,' 'Farmer's Cabinet,' and 'Lowell Courier.' Another evening, a watch was presented to her with a silver face, and she was requested to tell what time it was. 'It is 8 o'clock;' and it was correct! The same watch was again presented at some distance from her face, wholly covered by the gentleman's hand; she was requested to tell towards which side the dial, or glass face of the watch was turned. 'It is turned towards you,' said she; and it was correct. Again, a thick board, about 4 feet long and 3 wide, was brought into the room; several gentlemen placed themselves behind it, while the somnambulist's eyes were kept closely shut, by a bystander's fingers; she was asked to look and see the gentlemen, and she named them in succession, without mistaking once. Being asked whether she had noticed any thing interposed between her and the individuals, she answered in the negative. Then, being directed to see the object interposed, she said it was a board.

"5th. Her faculty for appreciating and keeping time is equally wonderful! If, for instance, I prescribe to her at one time to awake in a given number of minutes, go to sleep again in another limited number of minutes, and awake again at a certain time, she will awake, go to sleep again, and awake at the very second, according to the prescription.

"6th. I have never observed that this somnambulist would speak or act in an improper manner; far from it—she exhibits the same delicacy and perfect reserve as in the wakeful state. A great number of respectable gentlemen and ladies, of this place, have seen her in the magnetic sleep, and have expressed their satisfaction about the phenomena.

I am very truly yours,

JOSIAH A. WHEAT."

Nashua, N. H., Oct. 2d., 1837.

"Dr. Ch. Poyen,—

"*Dear Sir*,—You are aware that from the moment I heard your lecture on Animal Magnetism, in this town, I expressed to you that I felt a deep interest in this science, on account of the great importance that it seemed to me to have in regard to the health of mankind, and to the philosophy of the human mind. I resolved, therefore, to ascertain its reality by proper application of my own senses. I commenced a regular series of experiments, according to the method taught by you, and I have, ever since you left Nashua, perseveringly continued them. I must confess, sir, and I do it with the greatest pleasure, that the results I have obtained have fully confirmed, in my mind, the opinion which I had already formed from the two series of experiments which you allowed me to perform, for my own satisfaction, on your somnambulist, Miss C. A. Gleason. I have acquired such an evidence of the reality of Animal Magnetism, that I could not reject it without denying my own existence. My conviction is founded, not on experiments made by other individuals, in my presence, but on those I have myself repeatedly performed.

"1st. I have successfully magnetized several persons, of both sexes. I mention this, because I have found it to be the general impression that men are not susceptible of the magnetic influence.

"2d. I have succeeded to put a pretty good number into the magnetic sleep, and to awake them by my will, with a few gestures, at a distance.

"3d. Several of those I have magnetized have become somnambulists.

"4th. My somnambulists have exhibited most of the

phenomena mentioned by you in your lectures, and which I had witnessed in your experiments.

"5th. The time necessary for putting a person into the magnetic sleep, has varied, under my observation, from about 40 minutes to half a minute, and even less. I have now a somnambulist under my care, who falls into that state in less than a quarter of a minute, almost as soon as I form the volition. I have observed that this state is elicited much more easily, and sooner, in a person who has been frequently operated upon than in a new subject. I have been able to produce it at a distance, say 10 or 12 feet from the patient, and without either contact or gesture of any kind.

"6th. My somnambulists are generally insensible to impressions exercised on their external organs.

"7th. They will hear no one except myself. But by arousing a little their mind, and *willing* them to, they will answer correctly questions proposed by others.

"8th. I have met with several somnambulists, who could understand and obey my *will* in a most accurate manner. For instance, they will, at my *mental request*, raise their hand, take any object from mine or from another's hand, open their eyes, without awaking, get up and walk, converse with another person, and cease conversing, awake in a certain number of minutes, prescribed by me, without a word spoke, &c. About the reality of the power of the will, I cannot have any doubt, as the experiments were made by myself, and could not be known to any one else.

"9th. I have a somnambulist, whose sense of touch and internal feeling are so much developed and perfected, that she will tell correctly to which individual an object, placed in her hand, belongs! If she does not know the person's name, she will designate him by pointing out the seat occupied by him in the room. I

have made a number of experiments of this nature in your presence, before a numerous company, and you know that there could be no collusion. Among the persons present, on that evening, were Dr.'s Cutter and Reed, of this place, and the Rev. Mr. Hatch, a very intelligent and respectable pastor of the Methodist church.

"10th. This same somnambulist is also remarkable for the faculty she has of appreciating and keeping time.

"11th. Two of my somnambulists possess what has been termed *clairvoyance*, or the power of seeing with their eyes closed. They can, for example, read a few lines, tell the number of a bill, the time marked by any watch, and recognize any object placed at a distance before their face. I have observed that the exercise of this power is exceedingly fatiguing to the somnambulist; it is prudent not to repeat these experiments often, because the person complains very much afterwards, and is liable to make a failure when his mind is already confused. I will add, that I have noticed that the faculties of my patients are not always alike; their clearness and power vary very much according to their bodily state and mental dispositions previous to the experiment.

"12th. My somnambulists preserve, while asleep, the strictest feeling of delicacy and the same sense of duty as while awake. They never experienced any injury from my operations; far from it—one of them has received evident relief from them.

"Such are, my dear sir, in a few words, the results of my practice. I must add, that my line of business does not permit me to make the practice of magnetism a professional occupation: what I have so far accom-

plished has been done with the view of satisfying my own mind, and convincing my friends.

"If you think that my testimony might be of any value, you are at liberty to use this letter in any way you see fit, to promote the interest of the science.

Respectfully, yours,

LEONARD MARBLE."

Report of the Principal of my Class in Nashua.

Nashua, N. H., May 5th, 1837.

"The subscribers, having carefully attended the private course of eight lectures and experiments on Animal Magnetism, given by Dr. Ch. Poyen, in this town, certify,—1st. In regard to the lectures, that they have derived much gratification and instruction from the candid and scientific manner in which the subject was treated by him. 2d. In regard to the experiments, that they have clearly and forcibly proved the doctrine taught by Mons. Poyen to be founded on indisputable facts—as they were, with a very few exceptions, successful, and performed with the greatest care.

"Lastly, the subscribers certify, that, in all his course of lectures and experiments, Dr. P. conducted himself in a manner creditable to his character, and calculated to inspire confidence in his perfect integrity.

"(Signed)—C. G. Atherton, C. Cutter, M. D., Leonard Marble, W. E. Crosby, D. Kimball, W. D. Jones.

"The first signer of this certificate, C. G. Atherton, Esq., has been the Speaker of the House of Representatives of New Hampshire for these several years, and is now a member of Congress from that state. Dr. C. Cutter is a distinguished physician, who is now practising magnetism with much success. W. E. Crosby is the Preceptor of the High School."

SECTION VII.

Taunton.—New Bedford.—Salem.

The remarkable change which was effected in the public mind, at Taunton, in favor of Animal Magnetism, affords another conclusive refutation of the absurd, common-place argument, so often resorted to by our opponents, viz. that magnetism is supported only by weak-minded, credulous persons--believers in ghosts and witchcraft, who have suffered themselves to be gulled by some shrewd rogues. The fact is, that nowhere have I met with so much opposition as I did in Taunton; nowhere had I to contend and discuss so much; nowhere have my experiments been so closely scrutinized, so much doubted and ridiculed! Yet, the Tauntonians were generally honest in their incredulity, open to conviction, and eager in their investigation of the matter. Those who had subscribed for my private course, assiduously attended the lectures; being not satisfied with my own experiments, they decided, at my urgent and repeated requests, to make a trial for themselves, on some of their fellow-citizens. Several among them, in consequence, performed the operation to their full satisfaction. A number of very remarkable cases of somnambulism were soon elicited in the town; the phenomena produced were so striking, and the character, both of the magnetizers and of the persons magnetized, so well known, that the belief in the

reality of magnetism, in a short time became general. There is another circumstance worthy of notice; it is, that the best somnambulists at Taunton, are men, intelligent, respectable, and well known in the community. One of them, I had an opportunity of seeing a number of times while in the magnetic state; he is a well-educated, amiable young gentleman, now engaged in the study of medicine, with Dr. Gordon.

The Tauntonians have thus demonstrated, in a manner that no honest and philosophical mind can deny, that Animal Magnetism is a matter of fact, the reality of which can be ascertained by experiments, and of which even the most skeptical and cautious persons can convince themselves, if they only choose to lay aside their prejudices, and resort to the proper method of inquiry. They have, also, proved that simple, diseased and superstitious females are not the only ones susceptible of the magnetic influence; but that men of sense, and in good health, can be equally affected by it.

Among the magnetizers who have obtained most success, I will name Messrs. G. Wilmarth, Joseph Dixon, Paul Duxbury, and Hiram Barney—all gentlemen of sound minds and irreproachable characters.

I might fill up some twenty pages with the narratives of exceedingly curious facts that have been observed at Taunton; but I am obliged, at present, to omit all this, for want of room. I will content myself with extracting the following communication, inserted in the *Taunton Whig*, of September 13th, by a highly respectable professional gentleman.

"A gentleman who had a carious tooth, was desirous of having it extracted while under the magnetic influence, and seated himself for that purpose. He was put into a state of perfect magnetic sleep in the course of five minutes, at a distance of eight feet, by a friend who

had magnetized him many times before. In that state he remarked that the room was *too light*, and a silk handkerchief was therefore bound over his already closed eyelids. Being then asked if he wished to have his tooth extracted, he answered that he did. After a lapse of a few minutes, the magnetizer, standing at a distance, *willed* him to open his mouth, which he did, asking, at the same time, if it was wide enough.

"The magnetizer then retired to an adjoining room, and the operation was performed during his absence. I was near the patient, watched him closely, and did not observe any sign of suffering. There was not the slightest contraction of a muscle, either of his face or limbs, during the operation; no change of the countenance, or of the respiration. His whole body remained as perfectly composed as in the most quiet natural sleep. A bowl was placed under his chin, but he made no effort to free his mouth from the blood which flowed out between his lips, until the magnetizer returned, and *willed* him to do so.

"He inquired 'what made him spit so much;' and shortly after complained of the 'stuff running down his throat.' Being asked what it was, he replied, after tasting, that he 'did not know.'

"He was permitted to sleep a few minutes more, when the magnetizer went into an adjoining room, and *willed* him to awake in ten minutes. In precisely that time there was a considerable movement of the eyelids. The sleep continued three minutes longer.

"Soon after awaking, he observed the bowl containing the blood, in a chair by his side, and immediately placing his finger upon the cavity, asked, with the appearance of great surprise, if his tooth had been extracted. He declared that he was not until then aware that the operation had been performed.

"The tooth was a large one, had two stout fangs, and came out unusually hard. It was one of the molar teeth of the under jaw.

"I have shown this communication to Messrs. C. R. Atwood, Hiram M. Barney, Samuel C. West, Horatio Gilbert, Francis S. Munroe, and Jonathan Hodges, who were present, and to Dr. Nahum Washburn, who operated, and have their authority to state that it is an accurate recital of the incidents of the scene. G."

To the above statements I add a *report*, signed by thirteen gentlemen of the first respectability, who have attended my private course of lectures. This report, although short, yet contains all that is necessary to show that the signers of it are satisfied of the reality of Animal Magnetism.

Report of Dr. P.'s Class in Taunton.

"The subscribers, having attended the course of lectures on Animal Magnetism, delivered by Dr. Charles Poyen, in this village, feel it due to justice to certify that they have been much instructed by the scientific lectures, and gratified by the candid manner in which they were given.

"As to the phenomena described by Dr. Poyen, the subscribers also declare that they have acquired indisputable proofs of their reality, having seen most of them repeatedly produced by several members of the class on some of their fellow-citizens, whose moral character, education and standing in society, make it certain that there was no collusion whatever in the performances.

"C. R. Atwood, H. M. Barney, J. W. D. Hall, B. R. Gulliver, G. L. Wilmarth, P. C. Duxbury, George S. Pierce, Albert Sweet, John W. Seabury, B. L. Wood, Willard Loring, H. Gilbert, William Mason."

Taunton, July 24th, 1837.

New Bedford.

I had to contend, in this town, against nearly the same general incredulity and opposition as in Taunton, and other places. I must confess, however, that I found the most influential and enlightened persons there uncommonly well disposed towards giving a fair and unprejudiced trial to the matter. My lectures and private experiments were carefully attended there by a numerous class, composed of the very first gentlemen of the town; and, I am happy to say, that I felt exceedingly gratified by the attentive, candid, and gentlemanly manner with which they pursued their investigation. They were skeptical when they commenced, but I venture to say that very few of them remained unconvinced. Another noble and *rare trait*, which I take pleasure to signalize here, is, that I found them ready to come forward, fearlessly and publicly, in support of what they believed to be true. The following *report*, signed by twenty-two of the principal of the class, will prove what I have just advanced.

From the New Bedford Mercury of the first of August, 1837.

New Bedford, July 28th, 1837.

"We, the undersigned, deem it an act of justice to certify, that we have attended the course of lectures delivered by Mons. Ch. Poyen, in this town, and that we have been instructed and gratified by the able manner in which they were given. We also certify, that we have witnessed a series of experiments, performed by Dr. P., to illustrate the principles advanced in his lectures. The experiments were made before the whole class, on a young gentleman of respectable connexions and education, who had been living, for several weeks, in the Rev. Mr. Choules's family. From the testimony

of the Rev. Mr. Choules himself, this gentleman had been an entire stranger to Dr. P. until the very day on which the experiments were performed. Considering that circumstance, and especially the character of the effects produced, we think ourselves authorized to admit the reality of an influence exercised by one person over another, the nature and extent of which we do not attempt to explain. We have likewise attended a series of experiments performed on Dr. P.'s somnambulist, whose name is known to the public. So far as we can judge from an attentive application of our senses, the performances were fairly made, without any appearance of deception or collusion between the parties. An additional fact, which we deem it proper to state, is, that Dr. P.'s somnambulist has been magnetized by a member of the class, (one of the undersigned,) successfully on the first attempt, and while Dr. P. was not informed of the mental operations exercised by him. Under such circumstances, there seems to have been no opportunity for deception. We are, therefore, satisfied that the subject deserves the candid attention and careful scrutiny of scientific men. We further certify, that, in his course of lectures and experiments, Dr. P. has shown himself to be a gentleman of education, and has conducted himself in a manner calculated to inspire confidence in his integrity. (Signed)

R. R. Crocker, Chas. W. Morgan, John O. Choules, T. Dawes Eliot, Thos. A. Greene, Wm. R. Rodman, Andrew Robeson, S. Merrihew, James Cannon, J. Williams, Jr., J. Bourne, Jr., Daniel McKenzie, Thos. R. Robeson, Wm. G. E. Pope, L. T. Wilson, Jas. H. Howland, Jos. Hathaway, David Baker, J. A. Standish, B. C. Taber, Jeremiah Stone, Wm. B. Russell.

During my residence in New Bedford, several interesting cases of somnambulism were produced—two of which by me. The first subject of my experiments, was a girl employed in Mr. G. Blake's Hotel. All those who have known her, are convinced, from her extreme simplicity, that she is totally incapable of practising deception. Besides, how could she feign the phenomena of magnetism, ignorant, as she was, of the subject, which was entirely new to her. This girl, in consequence of some imprudence, was taken severely ill, and confined to her bed, in a state of high fever, with intense head-ache, and pains in her stomach. She was in that state for thirty-two hours, and had already tried, but without effect, various remedies, prescribed by the physician, when I proposed to magnetize her. She obstinately refused to undergo the operation, although she was urged very much, by several persons of the house, to submit to it. Still persevering in my resolution, I stood by her bed-side, and began to magnetize her, contrary to her own will, as I knew that it would be beneficial to her. In fifteen minutes she was fast asleep. I left her undisturbed for half an hour, when I asked her how she felt; she answered, "Very well: my head-ache is gone, and my stomach is better." I did not wish to perform any experiments, as I had no other intention than to cure her. She remained two hours in the magnetic sleep. Several very respectable gentlemen, among whom were Rev. Mr. Winslow, of Boston, Rev. Mr. Choules, and R. R. Crocker, of New Bedford, having expressed a desire of seeing her, they were introduced into the room: for their satisfaction, I tried a few simple experiments, with which they appeared much pleased. Two hours and a half having elapsed, and the girl assuring us that her troubles were gone, I awoke her by my will and

the usual gestures, made at a distance. Indeed, her sickness did not return, and she was able to resume her work from the very next morning.

The other person magnetized by me, was the son of the Rev. Dr. Cox, of the London University, a young gentleman, then residing at the house of the Rev. Mr. Choules. His case has been mentioned in the certificate of my class, as the reader must have noticed.

Among those who have magnetized with success in New Bedford, I will name Messrs. Asa Wood, Wm. B. Russell, Dr. Jer. Stone, and B. C. Taber. This last gentleman had the kindness to furnish me with a certificate, which I now present to the reader.

"From the great difficulty generally attending the introduction of important truths against the prejudices and preconceived notions of men, it is unquestionably the duty of those who become convinced of the value of those truths, to give all rational assistance to those who are laboring for their establishment. I believe the reality and importance to mankind of the phenomena called Animal Magnetism, require it—and, as a humble individual, I cheerfully give my testimony to aid in its further advancement. I have myself practised Animal Magnetism, with the view of producing its peculiar effects on the system, and obtained the most satisfactory results, convincing to those who witnessed my experiments. I have attended the lectures of Dr. Poyen, on the subject, in this place—am well satisfied that the true character of his experiments have been all that he has pretended to claim for them; and, so far as I have become acquainted with the gentleman, I sincerely believe him to be of strictly honest intentions in whatever he has placed before the public inspection.

BENJ. C. TABER."

New Bedford, July 31*st*, 1837.

The subject of Mr. Taber's experiments, was his own sister, an innocent and well-educated child, aged twelve years, only. She became a somnambulist, and the phenomena offered by her were so well marked and conclusive, that the editor of the New Bedford Gazette, who had been bitterly opposed to magnetism, was compelled, on witnessing them, to confess he was "swampt," to use his own printed word; which means *convinced*, in the language of all frank and honest-hearted people. Mr. Taber did not think it proper to give many details concerning this case of somnambulism; the reason is, that his nearest connections and friends were decidedly opposed to his practising magnetism, and especially to having any thing published on his sister's case. Mr. Taber has, then, acted as he ought to; he has done enough—and his simple certificate will weigh as much as though it was a pamphlet of twenty pages.

Salem.

We extract from the Salem Gazette of August 11th, 1837, the following statements and remarks, regretting very much that the limits of this book, which have already far exceeded our anticipation, do not permit us to transcribe the whole article, which fills up three columns of that paper. These remarks, as will be seen, were suggested by the lecture and experiments of Mr. Joseph Dixon, formerly a citizen of Salem, and now residing at Taunton.

"Mr. Editor,—Having attended Mr. J. Dixon's lecture on Animal Magnetism, and witnessed his successful experiments at Danvers, on Saturday evening last,

I am induced to offer some remarks upon this wonderful, though much ridiculed branch of science.

"Whenever a new doctrine is started, we are too apt to decide upon its truth or falsity from first impressions; and it is peculiarly unfortunate for the reputation of a new science, particularly if that science be so extraordinary, so opposed to all preconceived opinion, that even its believers are half ashamed to confess their belief, for fear of ridicule, if its early promulgation fall into the hands of ignorant enthusiasts or credulous sciolists. A true philosopher doubts, hesitates, deliberates, scrutinizes, looks at it in every conceivable aspect; but, when satisfied from observation, from experiment, or induction, that it is *truth*, he firmly believes it as such, though the *modus operandi* be shrouded in darkness. On the contrary, the first question with many is with regard to the *how* and the *why;* and, in endeavoring to explain things beyond human comprehension, bring discredit upon the truth itself.

"Perhaps no science has suffered more from erroneous statements, exaggerations, and the attempt at furnishing a plausible theory, than that now under consideration. In investigating its claims, let us be guided not at all by opinion or assertion, either of friend or foe: subject the alleged science to the unerring standard of *actual experiment.* If it stand not by this test, let it fall; and like those philosophical humbugs, Dualism, the universal solvent, the quadrature of the circle, and the influence of the stars, be numbered with exploded hypotheses.

"Setting aside the origin and history of Animal Magnetism, we propose to define the science, by showing—

"1st.—*What it is not.* It is in some minds associated with fortune-telling, juggling, &c. &c. Others imagine that the operator, possessing uncommon strength of nerve, and a peculiar organization, deranges, in some

mysterious manner, the imagination of the persons operated upon, causing them, while in that state, to see sights and hear sounds, as is usual in cases of diseased visual perception. Others suppose the operator merely *frightens* them into a belief that they see and hear things out of the common course of nature. Others, again, who admit the facts, imagine that the operator is in some mysterious way surcharged with an unknown species of magnetism, which secret is concealed from his audience. All these ideas we believe to be erroneous. The great majority, however, among us will give the subject not a thought, except to say to the whole, Fudge, fudge.

"2d.—We will endeavor to state what the science is. It is difficult, by an abstract definition, fully to explain what we mean by the term Animal Magnetism. We cannot better define it, than by calling it the influence which the will of one human being exerts, through the nervous system, upon the will and all the bodily functions of another. In other words, it implies a transfer of our own will into the person of another, who, for the time, is to a greater or less extent the mere creature of our will. This definition, vague as it is, conveys enough to the minds of some of our readers to induce them to exclaim, "This is a hard doctrine, who can believe it?" *How* can our will thus operate? In reply, I would ask, *How* can your will control the action of your hand? Who can explain the *how?* We know *the fact*—it is a common, every-day fact; we believe it: but another fact is stated, we disbelieve it; Why? Because more incomprehensible? No, but solely for the reason that it is new, startling, opposed to former observation and experience. We reject it at once—as did the learned heathen doctors the first annunciation by Anaxagoras

of the existence of an all-perfect, self-existent Intelligence, as the Great First Cause.

"An enumeration of facts being the best method of explaining the principles of the science, I will take the liberty of giving a brief narration, to the truth of which many of the most intelligent citizens of Danvers are ready to bear witness. I allude to the experiments performed at Danvers, on Saturday evening last, by our well-known, sincere, and intellectual townsman, Mr. J. Dixon.

"Mr. D. first tried his art upon a girl about eight years of age, resident in Salem. She was placed in a chair, opposite, and within a few feet of Mr. D., who calmly folded his arms, and with his eyes fixed intently upon her, sat perfectly still. He requested that silence might be preserved among the audience—not that it would affect *her*, but would distract his *own* attention; the requisite for successful operation being in the operator, not only sound health and superior strength of nerve, but also the power of concentrating his will upon a certain point, and keeping it fixed there unwaveringly for a considerable length of time. As few possess that degree of mental abstraction which enabled Archimedes to throw his whole soul into a problem, and there keep it, though soldiers burst into his room, and Death sat grinning upon the point of a thousand spears; they are of course unable to resist the diverting influence of external impressions. If the operator wills that a person sleep, he must for the time believe that he has *power* thus to cause sleep, then with every energy of the soul, aroused and brought to a focus, envelope his subject in the all-conquering grasp of his determined will, and thus remain firmly, unwaveringly, till his object be accomplished. Without irreverence, I would say, the operator must possess, in a certain limited degree, that same

lofty consciousness of immense power which our great Creator felt, when He bade the infant universe of worlds, fixed in their destined orbits, move on ; and, from the bosom of Eternity, said, "Let there be light."

"But, to return to our ingenious lecturer. After a sitting of ten minutes, the girl was apparently asleep. The first object was to satisfy the audience that the sleep was supernatural. Accordingly, she was placed so that all could see and handle, and be convinced. To this end, noises were made equivalent to the discharge of a fowling-piece close by her, but not a muscle moved. Her hands were deadly cold. They might be pinched to discoloration, but no movement indicated the least sensation. Mr. D. then willed her, (without speaking,) to raise her hand. Instantly, it was convulsed and slowly raised. He then, placing in her hand a closed penknife, at the same time conveying the idea to her that it was an apple, bade her eat it. Again were the convulsive motions visible, she raised her hand until it came in contact with her mouth.

"After repeating similar experiments, he willed her to awake. Convulsed in every limb, she slowly, slowly awoke. Her movements were so remarkable, and the whole operation so open to inspection, that no one could suspect the least deception. Indeed it was impossible. Several minutes elapsed before she was able to walk ; her first convulsive attempt at which, conveyed forcibly the idea of a departed spirit returning to reanimate a corpse already stiffened in death.

"I subsequently asked her how she felt. She replied that she "liked it,"—but when it was coming on, she felt as if spiders were creeping all over her, and sometimes rather cold ;—she could remember nothing that transpired during the slumber, and on awaking was bright and well as ever.

"The next operatee was a young lady of about seven-

teen. She once or twice even replied to questions put by the operator, though the greatest noises made by the others could produce no impression. Many of the most intelligent citizens of Danvers will attest to the truth of these statements. F."

The Letter which we are going to place before the eyes of the reader, is from Dr. Jos. E. Fisk, of Salem, one of those men, whose countenance, language, and manners, express so great simplicity of heart, benevolence and honesty, that I should consider it almost a crime to charge him with concerting a plan with any person to deceive his fellow-creatures. Dr. Fisk has made, with the greatest success, several series of experiments, which has been the means of convincing a great number of the most respectable citizens of Salem, of the reality of Animal Magnetism.

Salem, Oct. 22d, 1837.

"Dr. Ch. Poyen,—

"My Dear Sir,—You wish me to state in a few lines, the result of my experiments in Animal Magnetism, to appear in a volume which you are preparing on the subject.

"I am induced to comply with your request, only as I think it the duty of those who have had an opportunity of satisfying themselves about a matter so generally ridiculed and opposed, to help, as far as they can, in enlightening the public mind concerning it. Such is the motive which prompts me to give you my name. I must state, in the first place, and you are aware that I have as yet but little experience in the practice of Animal Magnetism. I began to occupy myself with it, only since you have come among us, and my professional occupations taking most of my time, I have expe rimented upon but few individuals. I have, however,

obtained some results which have confirmed me in the opinion that the subject is not all a delusion, as a great many pretend it to be, but is one which is well worthy of a thorough investigation by scientific men. I have succeeded in producing well-marked effects on three persons, one of whom has become a somnambulist, (so called.) My experiments have been so far made with the view of ascertaining whether the *will* of the magnetizer could be communicated to the somnambulist without the aid of language or signs. I can say the results obtained were in the affirmative, and were of a positive character, and as truly astonishing to myself as to those who witnessed them. There could have been no deception on the part of the somnambulist, as my experiments were made through the operation of the *will*, without language or motion, and every precaution was made to guard against the deception;—besides, she could have no interest whatever in feigning such a state; and if she had, she could not have done it. No person, in their natural state, could *know* when another *wills*, and what particular *thing* he wills, provided there is no language or sign to express it.

"At your request, I will certify that I have not yet seen any ill effects, either moral or physical, follow any of my experiments. I am very truly yours,

JAS. E. FISK."

NOTE. Besides Dr. Fisk's, other experiments have been tried with the greatest success, in Salem, by an eminent lawyer of the city, who now holds a public office, but whose name we are not authorised to disclose in this book. Every one knows him in Salem, not only as a professional man, but as a magnetizer; he has himself, loudly proclaimed his successful experiments in private circles, and even before my whole class! He has also performed in presence of a number of select companies, and even once, in presence of my class, when neither his *subject* nor myself were aware of what he was doing. (This experiment was made by the will alone, without a word spoken or a gesture made.) And yet this gentleman alluded to, feels the greatest reluctance to have his name mentioned with the subject of Animal Magnetism, although he has practised it, and believes it "*to be as true as his own existence.*"

SECTION VIII.

Bangor.—Nantucket.

From the Medical Journal, November 2d, 1836.

During my residence in Bangor, seven persons were magnetized under my personal observation; most of them were entirely ignorant of magnetism, and those who had heard something about it, had no faith at all in its efficacy. Yet, all were affected by it; one totally ignorant of the usual effects of magnetism, was operated upon by myself, in presence of Dr. Clark, and was compelled to go to sleep, although she (it was a woman,) had taken the determination to resist the influence. I could not continue my experiments on her, as she left the place on the next morning. Two other persons, magnetized by Doctors McRuer and Jewett, experienced a general increase of heat, and a great drowsiness; but could not be put into a profound sleep, on account of the convulsions, which manifested themselves with such an intensity that the operators were obliged to cease. These convulsions were produced at several successive times, and in the particular parts, towards which the magnetizer's hands were directed, although without touching even the clothes. A bandage carefully placed over the patient's eyes did not prevent the same phenomena to take place. Among the other persons magnetized, two were put asleep a number of times, but had not yet reached the state of somnambu-

lism when I left the city : finally, one became a perfect somnambulist. This last case, considering the age of the subject, (a little girl, 12 years old,) and the standing of her parents in society, together with the peculiar nature of the phenomena exhibited, seemed to have carried conviction to the minds of all those who witnessed the experiments! Among those witnesses, I will name Rev. Messrs. Curtis, Leonard Wood, Jr. Professor of Theology, at the Bangor Seminary, and Maltby ; Doctors MacRuer and Dean. Mr. Parker, a well-known gentleman, residing in the city, was the magnetizer.

Nantucket.—The conversion of Samuel H. Jenks, Esq., to Animal Magnetism, is already known to the country. Although disputed and ridiculed by our boasting *esprits forts*, his testimony had its due weight, and has opened the path to many others to investigate the claims of this new science. Mr. Jenks' philosophic and deep mind, his honesty and simplicity of heart, his cautiousness, and, at the same time, his moral courage, were too well known, not to have forced those of like character to inquire more into a subject upon which they had not yet thought worth their while to bestow their attention. I will now take the liberty of extracting a few lines from a letter of introduction, Mr. Jenks had the kindness of giving me for Mr. Woodward, Editor of the Connecticut Herald. I shall afterwards place before the eyes of the reader, an article from the Nantucket Inquirer, in which he made his first *profession of faith.*

Nantucket, August 27th, 1837.

Friend Woodward,—I have *investigated* the claims of this new science, and am *entirely* convinced of their

solidity. I was a skeptic, but determined to explore I have done it, carefully, patiently, laboriously; and the result is what I have already declared to the world. My *senses* have witnessed, and I can no longer remain incredulous. No man living, (I will say it, that should not,) is more determined in the disposition to withhold credulity until proof shall have removed it, than myself. I therefore commend to your examination this whole matter. Study what has been written thereon—then explore candidly and deeply. You will, naturally, as I did, feel a repugnance to the process; but I assure you that you will be amply repaid for your pains.

From the Nantucket Inquirer of Aug. 23d, edited by the Hon. S. H. Jenks.

Animal Magnetism. To this subject, which we are now satisfied is one of extraordinary importance, we have in our late numbers devoted considerable space. Having investigated the claims of this new science, candidly, as we trust, and as patiently and thoroughly as time and opportunity may have allowed, we do not hesitate to avow our unqualified assent to its principles, and our belief in its wonderful phenomena. A few weeks since, we were imbued with the prejudices which are common and natural to all who have as yet either enjoyed no means, or taken no pains to examine the matter; and we then adventured sundry remarks, which we now desire to retract, disclaim, and discard. Our confidence in the reality of Animal Magnetism is founded on facts which the closest scrutiny cannot overturn—on evidence which the most stubborn incredulity is unable to withstand. To this unavoidable conclusion we have arrived, through the aid of proofs, an exposition of which, at a future period, we may attempt to communicate through these columns. Our present

purpose is to say that the first course of instruction in this interesting branch of physiological science, by Dr. Poyen, will close this evening. The class in attendance has not been numerous; but we believe none, who have closely attended, remain unconvinced.

CONCLUSION.

To the numerous facts and testimonials contained in the preceding pages, if we add the almost equal number of testimonials and facts presented in the three *appendices* to Deleuze's *Practical Instruction*, translated into English by Thos. C. Hartshorn, Esq., of Providence, every honest and sensible person must come to the conclusion that the evidence afforded of the reality of Animal Magnetism is, to say the least, strong enough to entitle the subject to a candid and serious examination. I would ask, indeed, whether it does not require as much *credulity* to believe that all these facts are false—that all those intelligent, disinterested witnesses, who have testified to the truth of these facts, were mere rogues, or deluded persons, as to believe in the most incomprehensible phenomena of Animal Magnetism? Is not the coincidence existing between so many respectable testimonies, in this age of general information and skepticism, sufficient to arrest our attention, and cause us, at least, to withhold our judgment?

I know that the Animal Magnetic experiments are not always successful. But can a *negative* fact neutralize a *positive one?* What would become of the sciences of Medicine, Chemistry, Galvanism, Electricity, &c., if we recorded only the failures that take place in the chemical, galvanic and medical experiments?* Reader, mind what I will now take the liberty of telling you: Make use of your reason; do not allow yourself to be influenced by the prejudices of others; do not disbelieve a thing, do not ridicule it, merely because it is generally disbelieved and ridiculed. Before you pronounce your opinion about Animal Magnetism, read and meditate the writings of our learned, judicious, and good master Deleuze. (*Histoire Critique, Instruction Pratique,*) *and make, yourself, a fair trial of the proceedings by which we pretend that the magnetic phenomena can be produced.*—To scientific bodies I will say, If you desire to investigate the claims of magnetism, do not content yourself with appointing committees of skeptical and prejudiced professional men,

* See my pamphlet, containing a "Letter to Col. Stone, of New York, and a refutation of Mr. Durant's Exposition," &c., in which I explain the causes of failures in the Animal Magnetic experiments.

to see and *scrutinize only experiments made by others;* but appoint a committee of disinterested, fair-minded, intelligent, and healthy individuals, of various professions, to *experiment themselves*, viz. to magnetize *new subjects*, in whom *they can place confidence; let those men pursue their examination according to the method taught by Deleuze; and report, afterwards, on the results of their own personal experience.* In that way, only, you can arrive at the truth, and your reports, either for or against the pretended science, will be entitled to a serious consideration.

Note 1*st.*, *page* 30. When I say that those who have opposed magnetism were not competent to decide upon the matter, because *they had not made experiments themselves*, I mean to say that they *have not themselves practised magnetism*, viz. applied, from their own accord, *and in laying aside their former prejudices*, the mental and manual proceedings by which we pretend that the magnetic experiments can be produced.

Note 2*d.*, *page* 58. I intended to give here a pretty long notice of *Mr. Durant's Exposition of Animal Magnetism*; but as I have already examined that work in a separate publication, I will refer the reader to it. See "A Letter to Col. W. Stone, of New York," and "*A Plain Answer* to Durant's Exposition of Animal Magnetism, &c.;" Boston: Weeks, Jordan and Co., 121 Washington Street. Also, at C. Shephard's, New York.

APPENDIX.

THE reader is, perhaps, already informed that Baron Dupotet de Senneroy, a distinguished physician of the faculty of Paris, who has been successfully engaged, for nearly 20 years, in the practice of Animal Magnetism, is now in England, endeavoring to establish the science in that country. Baron Dupotet commenced his undertaking in London, about four months ago. He has been permitted to perform experiments on a number of patients in the public hospitals, and, it appears, not without success. Among those who have been convinced by his performances, and who had the courage of publicly acknowledging their belief, I will mention Dr. Elliotson, physician of the North London, or University College Hospital, already celebrated by his works, and justly considered as one of the most eminent medical men of Great Britain. The conductors of the press, in this country, who seem to have formed a league to oppose Animal Magnetism, and show themselves eager in grasping at every thing calculated to throw contempt and ridicule upon the subject, have been careful to overlook Dr. Elliotson's conversion to magnetism! None of them have yet, if I am well informed, quoted a single line of the lecture delivered by this distinguished individual, at the hospital which he superintends. The skeptical editors have, perhaps, found it so pitiful, that they did not care about mentioning it. Dr. E. has suffered himself to be gulled! Poor, weak-minded *savant*, he has fallen the prey to a "*humbug!*" What! Dr. E. believing in magnetism?

It is no more than Dr. Johnson believing in ghosts, and Cotton Mather in witchcraft! &c. But enough of this contemptible and dishonest incredulity. Enough with those ungenerous and unreasonable skeptics, who thus willingly keep their eyes shut, in order that they may have some ground to deny the existence of light, and maliciously treat as rogues or fools all those who conscientiously and candidly confess their belief in what they have carefully examined with the senses that God gave them.

We extract the following pages from Dr. Elliotson's lecture, published in the London Lancet, Sept. 9, 1837.

"Now, the question arose, whether these states could be produced by means of art; they were evidently depending on a diseased state, as epilepsy was. A girl, now in the hospital, was thrown into the remarkable state by the manipulations which had been called animal magnetizing. The gentleman who magnetized her would pass one or both hands gently before her; in a few minutes she would stare, move her eyes, and then go to sleep. This had also occurred in a large number of other instances. Some had said the result was to be attributed to the gentle motion of the hands, as that would sometimes, as was known, send people to sleep; but it could not be so in all cases, as the effects were produced when the magnetizer stood some distance off, and sometimes even by one or two movements. The same thing also occurred in some cases when the movements were made behind persons' backs. Besides the effect being produced in some persons when at a great distance, and in others by one or two movements, the sleep was sometimes most intense. He thought the manipulation had greater influence than had before been imagined. Now, he had read of all these things many years ago, and felt anxious to know something more about them. In 1829, Mr. Chenevix, who had been in Paris, and practised mesmerism to some extent, was willing to show him the effect of it. He (Dr. E.) took him to *St. Thomas's Hospital*, to try its effects

on some nervous patients, in whose cases it is said to do most good. He (Dr. E.) was not satisfied with its effects on any but one patient, and in that instance the results were so extraordinary, that he felt convinced that it was a subject not altogether to be laughed at. The patient was an ignorant Irish girl, who had never seen or heard of the gentleman. She was brought into a private room, and the manipulation commenced; in a minute or two she begged he would not go on, as she said it produced 'great weakness in her,' and a pain in the abdomen. This pain went off when a transverse motion was made over the part. He (Dr. E.) did not infer much from this, for he thought this effect might be merely imaginary, but when the manipulator suddenly darted his open hand upon her arm, and she suddenly lost the power of it, which was again as suddenly restored by a few transverse motions; and when he showed the same effects on the other arm, and also on the leg, and produced the same results, when the girl's eyes had been closed, he (Dr. E.) began to be staggered. On one occasion, too, while she was in this state, the operator placed a very small piece of paper on one of her feet, and then she could not raise that foot; but after a few transverse motions had been made, she raised it easily. This occurred again and again. He was satisfied there was no deception there. He was astonished at the effects, and when asked if he was satisfied, he did not say, at first, either yes or no; he was almost ashamed to say that he was not. On first seeing a thing of the kind, he thought it excusable for any one to suppose there was collusion, and disbelieve the effects altogether. He had published an account of these experiments in the 'London Medical and Physical Journal' for 1829. He was fully satisfied that there was something more than imagination in these things; but he had had no opportunity or time to carry on the investigation, till he heard of Baron Dupotet being in London, who had magnetized for twenty years. and some of whose works on magnetism he (Dr. E.) had read. He was determined to ask him to afford his assistance. The results of the experiments had been the following:—Generally speaking, it took

no effect on male subjects, or if it did it was very slight, consisting of slight twitchings of the muscles, a feeling of fulness, and gasping, or catching of the breath,—in many cases not even so much effect as this. These effects were not, however, imaginary; he (Dr. E.) had felt them, and he had expected rather to go to sleep, if there had been any effect. Some, however, went to sleep, who had made up their minds that no effect could be produced, and had determined to resist it if possible. A great number of female patients had been sent to sleep, and so had one male epileptic for the space of ten minutes, not longer; he was, however, decidedly asleep. This effect was all that was produced in him, and this did not always occur. The experiments had been tried on three girls, one of them epileptic, and two of them hysterical. In the first case, the girl was sent into a state of decided coma; she had no sensation; she was pricked with pins, and suffered no pain; she did not feel when her hair was pulled. During the time the influence lasted, she kept rolling her eyes, or moving her lower lip up and down; when the eyes were still the lip moved, and *vice versa*. Nothing but coma was produced in this case; but she could not open her eyes by herself, nor by transverse movements across them, except these movements were made by the magnetizer himself, as no one else, in performing this manipulation, succeeded. This was tried repeatedly, and found always to be the case, while the magnetizer succeeded instantly.

"With regard to the patient he first mentioned, the effects were most decided; she did not fall into the ecstacy directly after she was magnetized, but the change in the fits came on after she had been magnetized several times. Hence it was not an immediate effect of the process, though it had been produced by it. These paroxysms were, however, decidedly put an end to by magnetism. She would sit during the manipulations, and talk as ramblingly as possible, and be exceedingly abusive; then, all at once, she would stare about her, close her eyes for a moment, and be quite well again. Now, she was brought out of the attacks so repeatedly, and so decidedly, that there could be no doubt

that the magnetism produced the effects. There was no imagination acting here, as they had seen her when she sat down, restless and abusive, not knowing that she was to be brought to herself; indeed, not knowing that she was not herself. She only came out of the fits once or twice without magnetism, but was brought out of them three-fourths of the times by that agency, when it was employed; and she had never, he believed, been brought out of the ecstatic delirium without it. Many persons had been convinced of the effects of magnetism by this case, who had not believed in it when only sleep was produced. There was no collusion, he felt convinced, in this case. Another patient, a girl, had been sent into a state of coma by means of magnetism; no pricking with pins, or pulling of her hair, would bring her out of that state. There was, therefore, no doubt that a coma, similar to that of epilepsy, could be produced by magnetism. Her jaw was so fixed that it could not be drawn down by the force of the hand, but when a few transverse motions were made over it, it gave way directly. This girl could not open her eyes until they had been magnetized. There was no deception practised in these things. Baron Dupotet said he would open one sense while the others remained shut. He placed his finger in one of her ears and she heard slightly at first; she then began to hear better, and gradually got to the full sense of hearing, and answered questions; and the last time not only spoke, but fell into a violent rage, and shook an individual, who had offended her, with great force; she sat down, looking the picture of rage, her lips white, and she trembling all over with passion. She was awoke by a few transverse motions over the eyes, and knew nothing of what had occurred during the state of insensibility.

"Now, so far as these facts had gone, that is, those that had come under his own notice, he (Dr. E.) believed in what he should call Mesmerism, for Mesmer might be considered the second founder of the system. He (Dr. E.) was never ashamed to declare what he believed; he had little respect for authority, when he saw facts like those he had observed in the cases manipulat-

ed on by Baron Dupotet; he must believe them. The whole profession might laugh, but he must believe that there was a peculiar power which gave rise to the phenomena which he had observed, and that it was not sufficiently known or appreciated. They were not, however, without the authority of great men, as believers in Mesmerism."

After quoting two passages, one from Laplace, the great mathematician, and the other from Baron Cuvier, Dr. E. observes,—

"With the authority of two such individuals, one of them a profound mathematician, the other a distinguished naturalist, there could be no disgrace in taking the trouble to inquire into the effects of Mesmerism."

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